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A FISHERMAN PUBLICATION

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

June 11th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 23 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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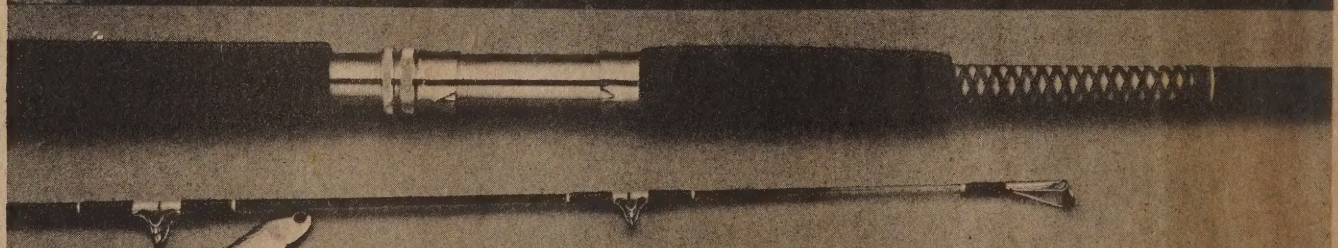

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

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Lou Rosado of Daiwa and Dick Mermon of Shakespeare with a pair of big stripers that fell to trolled plugs. See the article, "Of Bass and Wood" on page 18. Cover by Dick Mermon.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **DINING PLEASURE FROM "TRASH" FISH**

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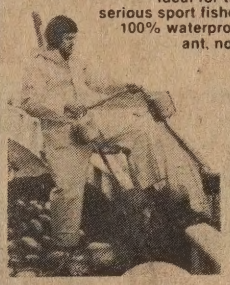

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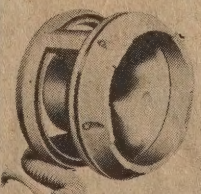

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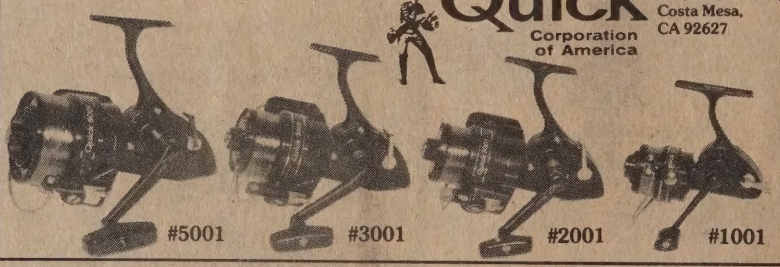

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WEEKLY FISHING UPDATE ON CHANNEL 21 TV

Long Island anglers can now get the latest on weekend fishing prospects by tuning in to Public Television Channel 21. Long Island Fisherman Editor, Fred Golofaro, broadcasts the reports following the 8PM and 11PM news on Thursdays and again after Friday's 7AM newscast.

NEPTUNE POWER SQUADRON INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

Huntington's Neptune Power Squadron recently installed its new "Bridge" officers at the Squadron's annual Change of Watch dinner dance. Officers named to the new Bridge were Stuart A. Horn, Commander; James V. Sileo, Executive Officer; Henry Foglino, Educational Officer; Bernard J. Lavelle, Administrative Officer; Frank J. Gasparrini, Secretary; Pol Jagodzinski, Treasurer; and Carl Gruner, Financial Secretary.

Although its membership is socially active, the Change of Watch being one of the social "Highlights," the Squdron's primary objective is the education of the general public in all aspects of safe boat handling. For over 35 years the Neptune Power Squadron has been offering free boating classes, as a public service, to all who are interested in obtaining a basic knowledge of small boat handling.

Through these courses, which are taught by squadron members experienced in small handling, it is hoped that students will develop an appreciation of the importance of all safe boating procedures. During these courses, for which a certificate is awarded upon completion, students receive instruction in Navigation, Chart Reading, "Rules of the Road" and many other areas of safe boat handling.

These free classes, which are open to the general public, are given in the Fall and Spring. Times and dates are announced through "Public Service" announcements on radio and in newspapers.

THE ASPHALT GREEN FIREBOAT HOUSE CENTER OFFERS A NAUTICAL COURSE FOR ADULTS

The Fireboat House Center of the Neighborhood Committee for the Asphalt Green, located at the East River & 90th Street, will present a special nautical program on three consecutive weeks—June 10, June 17

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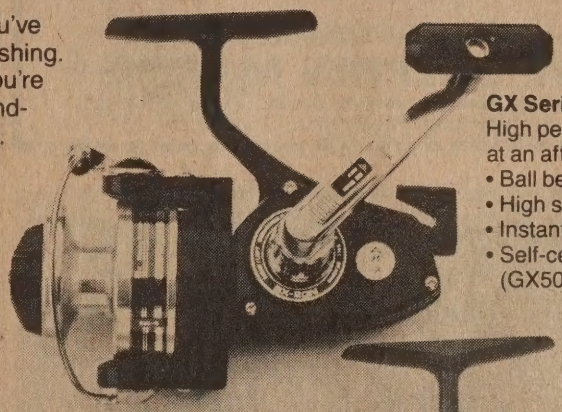

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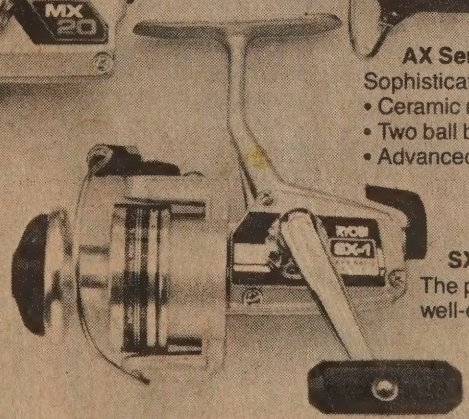

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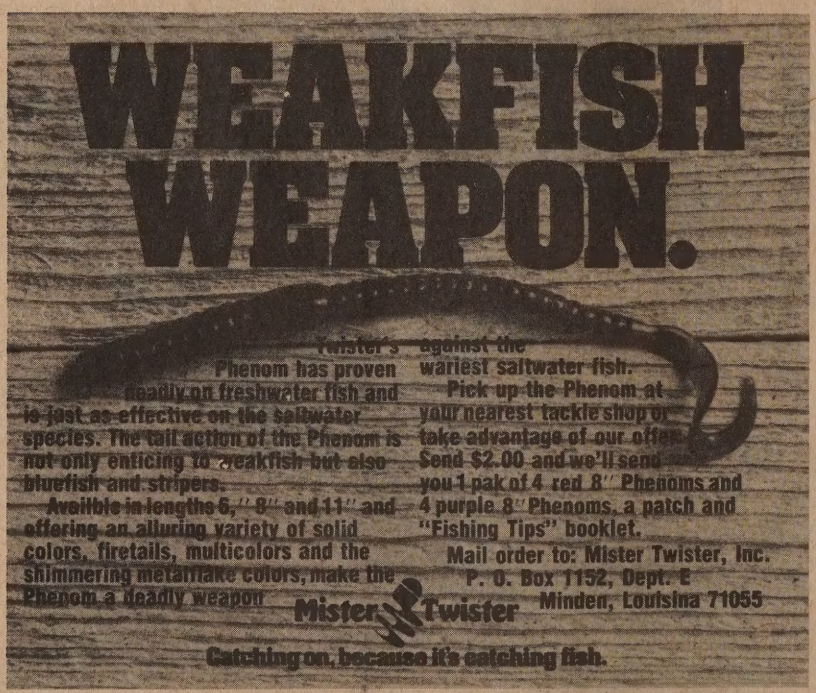

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The course is entitled, FISHING FOR THE BEGINNER: An introductory look at the world of fishing from equipment to conservation.

It is designed for those neighborhood residents who are interested in saltwater fishing. The course will serve to prepare the new fisherman for the summer season.

The curriculum is being prepared by Mr. Ed Alter, volunteer instructor for the Asphalt Green Yachting and Marine Environmental Association (AGYMEA). It is part of the overall program of courses that AGYMEA has been offering since September, 1980.

The course is free to all members of AGYMEA. A $15 fee for non-members will also serve as dues for entrance into the organization.

LIBBA MEETING JUNE 11TH

There will be a Long Island Beach Buggy Association Board of Directors meeting at Bondi's Tavern, Montauk Highway, Patchogue on June 11 at 8PM. Anyone interested in the functions of this organization may attend.

For more information, call (516) 261-9767.

GATEWAY STRIPER CLUB OPEN HOUSE

The Gateway Striper Club of Belle Harbor, New York is pleased to announce that on Thursday, June 11, 1981, Mr. Jack Yee, noted surfman and Vice-President of the Montauk Surfcasters Association will give a talk on wet suits and fishing the Montauk surf.

The meeting will be held at Building T149, Fort Tilden, New York, just over the Marine Parkway Bridge in Queens. Prospective members are also invited to attend and meet the fellas. The action starts at 7:45 p.m. See you there.

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For a copy of "Fishing America," send $2.95 to Daiwa, Dept. FG, 14011 South Normandie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249. You will also receive a free

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—"BASS Masters Classic X," a 26-minute film about the BASS Masters Classic X held in September, 1980 in Thousand Islands, N.Y. The film was made by the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.).

—"The Striper Odyssey," a 25-film about the growth of a freshwater striped bass population from the salt water species. This award-winning film features Spider Andressen on **Salt Water Sportsman** magazine and professional bass fisherman Bill Dance of "Bill Dance Outdoors." Co-sponsors of this film include Daiwa Corp. and Evinrude Motors.

These three films join such favorites as "The Fishing Connection," an 18-minute film about the technology and performance of monofilament fishing line.

All are available without charge to fishing clubs by writing the DuPont Company, Motion Picture Division, General Services Dept., Wilmington, DE 19898. Requests should be sent about two months in advance, and two possible showing dates should be requested.

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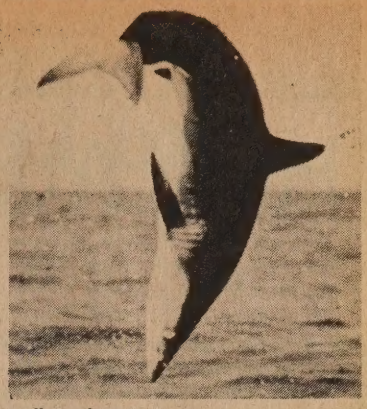

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How About Tagging a Shark

by Al Ristori

With the shark season right at hand, this is a good time to think about getting involved in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Cooperative Shark Tagging Program. Other government programs may be feeling the axe right now, but the shark program has always been run on a shoestring and is almost totally dependent on cooperation from sportsmen in order to survive and succeed.

Run by world famous shark expert Jack Casey, along with associates Chuck Stillwell and Wes Pratt, the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program supplies tags and darts free of charge to serious shark anglers willing to tag those sharks they elect to release. A supply of tags (along with instructions on rigging a tagging stick) can be obtained by writing to Jack at the NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Center, Narragansett, RI 02882. Cooperative taggers also receive a newsletter which is printed compliments of the Bay Shore Tuna Club. Those recovering tags can obtain a $5 reward from the program for their return.

In 1980, 5,236 sharks representing thirty-four species were tagged and released with volunteer taggers accounting for 95% of the releases. This represents a slight increase over 1979, though returns were down by twenty-one. This probably is the result of a somewhat poorer early summer blue shark run. As it was, there were 146 tags returned which broke down as follows: 87 blue sharks, 14 sandbars (browns), 10 shortfin makos, 7 blacktips, 4 tigers, 4 duskies, and 14 other sharks—plus 5 swordfish and 1 white marlin. Though there is another NMFS program set up for that purpose, some teleosts (fish with bones, rather than cartilage) are also tagged with the shark tags. In 1980, there were 253 teleosts of eleven species tagged, including 199 swordfish and 20 white marlin. Among the more unusual species were six ocean sunfish, two longbill spearfish, and one escolar (oilfish).

The most popular shark for tagging is the blue, with 2777 tagged last year. Next are the difficult to identify sandbar and dusky sharks. There are 453 sandbars (browns) listed plus 379 duskys, but also another 397 "brown shark unspecified," 14 "brown/dusky shark unspecified," and 11 "Carcharhinus (the family) unspecified." Other heavily tagged sharks include the shortfin mako (167), tiger (147), scalloped hammerhead (141), Atlantic sharpnose (136), and blacktip (101).

Though almost all tagging is done by U.S. fishermen and scientists, the oceanic sharks spread themselves throughout a good portion of the world—and 19% of the tag returns last year came from foreign fishermen. Among these were 6 from Mexico, 4 from Spain, 3 from Japan, 3 from Cuba, 3 from Korea, 2 from Martinique, 2 from Granada, and one each from Canada, Taiwan, Guadeloupe, St. Lucia, and Bermuda. Among the domestic returns, the largest number (70) were taken by rod and reel fishermen.

Five blue sharks showed transatlantic movement from the U.S. to the European and African coasts. Most unusual was the blue shark tagged by Al Schaumberg of Connecticut forty miles south of Montauk that was recovered nine months later on a longline 3630 miles to the southeast—820 miles west of Liberia. This is a new long distance record for a tagged shark and the most southerly tag return. So far, no tagged shark has crossed the Equator, but this one was within 100 miles of doing so!

The intermixture of blue sharks throughout the Atlantic was illustrated by two blues captured by a Japanese longliner off the Cape Verde Islands within a few days of each other. One had been tagged by New York angler Alex Levy fifty miles southeast of Fire Island Inlet and had traveled 3150 miles southeast in 483 days. The other blue was carrying a British tag! Another blue that ended up in the middle of the Atlantic was one tagged by Harvey Smith of New York (one of his three returns) twenty-two miles south of Block Island that was recaptured by a longliner 460 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands—a year later and 2760 miles to the southeast.

Other blues moved right over to Europe or decided to take the sun in more southerly climes. Ken Ehlers of New Jersey tagged a blue southeast of Shinnecock, that went 2820 miles east in nine months before being longlined 260 miles west of Portugal. Another blue tagged by a NMFS biologist 60 miles northeast of Cape Hatteras ended up 110 miles west of Portugal 18 months later—a straight line distance of 3059 miles. New York angler Peter Van Alst tagged a blue twenty-five miles east of Montauk that ended up with a harpoon in its back ten miles west of Granada, West Indies nine months later—a distance of 1883 miles south. Three other blue

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sharks tagged by biologists or longliners in the North Atlantic were recovered off Granada, Guadeloupe, and St. Lucia. Yet another was tagged by a biologist 79 miles east of Ocean City, Maryland and ended up being caught on a longline 15 miles northwest of Blanquilla, Venezuela.

Tag returns on makos do not approach those of blue sharks because relatively few anglers are willing to tag this delicious game fish. However, the ten returns of shortfin makos did supply some intersting information. Three tagged makos made extensive migrations to the south. Two of these were tagged by NMFS observers on the Japanese longliners. One tagged 357 miles east of Assateague, Virginia was recaptured 580 miles east of St. Lucia: 1690 miles in thirteen months. Another, tagged 200 miles east/northeast of Cape Hatteras ended up sixty-five miles west of the Dry Tortugas—providing further proof of movement from the Atlantic into the Gulf of Mexico. For many years it was assumed that there was little, if any, movement of sharks between the Atlantic and Gulf, but within the past several years there have been 14 recaptures from seven species indicating this movement.

Tagging by NMFS observers on the Japanese longliners is providing us with a great deal of information about some of the more unusual sharks. For instance, last year there were two longfin mako returns. The longfin mako is a deep water relative of the shortfin that we catch, and is rarely taken on rod and reel. Observers were also responsible for the returns of three out of four tiger sharks, plus the lone oceanic whitetip and silky, and many blue and shortfin mako sharks. That's just one of the dividends paid on our insistence that the Japanese longliners must return all species other than tuna by cutting the leader in the water. Two of the swordfish returns had also been tagged by observers, proving that there is at least some survival of that relatively fragile species when caught on longlines.

Perhaps the most dramatic recapture of the year was that of a sandbar shark that was at liberty for 15.2 years! It was tagged by biologist Chuck Stillwell in Great Machipongo Inlet, Virginia on June 22, 1965 and recaptured off Block Island on Sept. 18 last year. This is the longest time at liberty for any tagged shark so far recorded. At tagging, this young male was 47'' long, and 15 years later it was just 66''. Though over 20 years old, it was still not mature! This further reinforces the fact that sharks are long-lived, but slow growing. Since it takes a long time for them to mature, and they produce few young, it's quite obvious that they can be easily depleted by intensive fishing.

We'll have more about the fascinating subject of shark tagging next week, but don't hesitate writing to Jack Casey for your tag supply!

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BOATING TIPS

ARE YOUR CABLES SAFE?

by Bob Whittier

Today a majority of outboard and stern drive boats are operated not from stern seats, but from control columns or forward seating positions. Flexible push-pull cables link the steering wheel, throttle and gear shift levers to the motors.

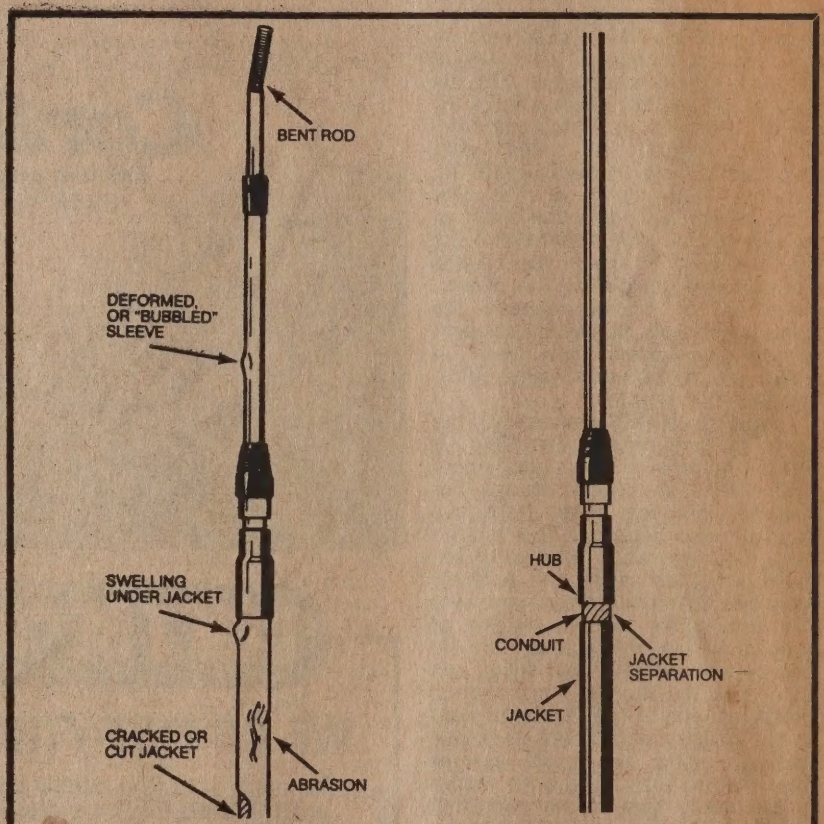
And here we have a case of familiarity breeding contempt. Boat owners tend to take control cables for granted, much like their shoelaces. But just as a shoelace can break suddenly—and often at a most awkward time—so can a control cable let go. If this happens while shoving off from a dock or ramp, the boat's speed tends to be low and a quick turn of the ignition switch will get things under control. But when a cable lets go as a boat flies over wave tops at 30mph, brother, there's going to be a job for the Coast Guard!

Steering cable failure tends to be progressive. Consisting of an internal push-pull cable inside a strong, but flexible outer housing, and having permanent internal lubrication, a cable will give long service without any noticeable deterioration. One can be lulled into thinking it will last forever. Thus the door is opened to an unexpected and unpleasant surprise. To avoid trouble, inspect your cables periodically.

Cable problems fall into two distinct categories—external damage and internal deterioration. The first group of troubles can be detected visually. The second type tends to show up in the form of altered control wheel "feel." This can be either some binding at one or more points of the cable travel, or an increasing amount of lost motion in the control wheel or lever.

An accompanying sketch shows things to look for in the course of a visual examination. The usual cause of bulges in the plastic covering is rust spots. In some way, such as tiny cracks or chafed spots in the plastic sheathing, water has gotten into the metal and done its mischief. When iron or steel combine with oxygen, the resulting iron oxide occupies more space than did the original metal, hence the swelling.

Since these cables are manufactured with specially-designed processes and equipment, there is no way to recondition them in the field. It's a situation akin to that one faces with a gun whose barrel rifling has worn out; just no way to fix it short of installing a new part. It can help to view the money spent on new cables as being spent for a most effective form of life insurance.



Points to check when inspecting push/pull control cables. Courtesy Morse Controls.

To detect internal deterioration, operate controls through the full range of their movement. Feel for binding at one or more points in the range of movement. Do not be confused by control lever detent buttons when doing this. If you feel some binding, it could be either in the cables or in the motor itself. Therefore, disconnect the cables from the motor and operate the controls again. If the binding no longer exists, the sticking was caused by something in the motor, such as a control lever in need of lubrication or readjustment. But if the binding persists, then you can be sure it is caused by something inside the cable.

The solid part of the inner control cable at the aft end of the assembly, the part that goes through the engine mount or is affixed to a bracket on the engine, and which connects to the engine to steer it, is called the "ram." In saltwater area, sea water left to dry where the ram enters the housing can cause corrosion over a period of weeks and lock the ram against movement. The moment you try to turn the steering wheel you feel this rigid resistance. In such a case, douse the ram repeatedly with penetrating oil and move the wheel back and forth with moderate force to loosen up the corroded spot. Or tap on the end of the disconnected ram with a plastic hammer.

A steering control cable on a boat that is used hard all season long should be replaced after two, three or four years of service even though it shows no obvious signs of deterioration. It's on the same principie as replacing car tires when they have worn down to the wear indicating bars—they may last awhile longer, but to do so is to court trouble.

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FISH TALK

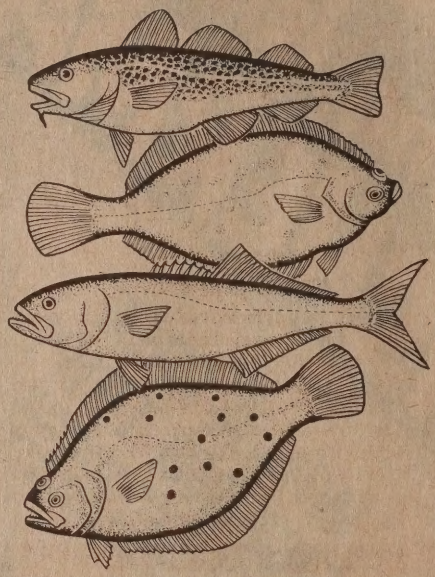
TAKE YOUR PICK!

by William A. Muller

JUNE MAY BE THE BEST! Every year when the month of June blossoms, I get that same feeling of fishing confidence. Indeed, June may be our best fishing month overall. The early spring was a very windy season and maybe after a cold winter and high fuel bills you're somewhat reluctant to get out and fish. If that's the case, maybe I can convince you to sample some Long Island fishing and Long Island fresh air. It is true that many different species of fish are available in good quantities now and in numerous locations around Long Island. To sweeten the pot all the boat liveries are open, all the party boats are rigged and sailing, and charter boats are sailing daily. Thus, even if you don't have your own boat or fish the surf you can easily hop into your car and take a short ride to the nearest port. Once there you can select "your poison" as they say.

FLOUNDER! Let's take a look at what we have and where it may be. Flounder are a durable spring species. Although the Peconic run of larger fish will be long over by now, those fish have moved to the east and there should still be some good fish in the days ahead around Gardiner's Island and at Montauk. Places like Shagwong and Cullodon Point produce late. To the north, there should still be some fair to good flounder fishing in the east end of the Sound especially east of Mattituck Inlet. To the west, there will continue to be some nice fish around the big inlets. Here some folks like to work the inlet mouths themselves while others tie up to bridges close to the inlets. The flounder in Moriches Bay may hang on into July, but certainly in June there will still be good fishing. The flounder may not be as big as they were in April and May, but they should be plentiful. It isn't likely that party boats will still be working on flounder now. Most will have switched to weakfish, fluke, porgies, etc. However, you can rent a skiff or tow your own boat and enjoy some really good flounder fishing. A lot depends on the weather. If late May and early June are hot, then you can cut a few weeks off the flounder season. If it stays raw and cold you can add on a few weeks.

WEAKFISH! Weaks should be in their stride in many areas right now. Peconic Bay and Great South Bay will probably have seen better days on this species; especially deep inside



the bays. Nonetheless, the south shore inlets, Montauk, Long Island Sound, and New York Bight should be experiencing handsome catches. Careful now, the weaks are often eager daytime eaters in early May, but they become a little more fussy when the water gets a little warmer. It is also true that fresh bait may have to be substituted for plastic worms and plastic shrimps. The situation needs to be "felt out" in each area. So much depends upon available bait. Check the fishing reports for the area you like to fish at the back of the publication. Try the nighttime if you want your weaks big and feisty.

PORGY! Porgies begin their appearance with the weakfish in late April and early May. However, often there aren't enough fish to make fishing for them worthwhile at first. The point is that certainly by June there will be porgies almost everywhere. Long Island Sound, Peconic Bay, Montauk are the spots that have featured outstanding porgy fishing in recent years. Our writers have been suggesting that you try light tackle for porgy where the water isn't too deep and the currents aren't too strong. Okay, then if you fish in quiet water try an ultra-light stick. Porgies are great battlers and if you haven't caught them, then think about taking a youngster with you. Porgies are like flounder in that respect. They are abundant and they fight hard. Little chance of boredom for the new fisherman if you do a little advanced planning.

BLACKFISH. Blackfish will still be hanging in during the early part of June in Long Island Sound and near to any piles of debris that may be found in the south shore inlets, bays, and near-ocean. I don't favor the spring for blackfishing myself because the fish aren't as abundant in many places as they will be in October, the fish can be a little fussier, and there are so many other species to fish for. If you want to try spring blackfishing with the family, try tying up to a bridge on the south shore back bay. Use a chum pot to draw the fish off the pilings to your bait and get ready for some surprises. Any and all of the following are possible: striped bass, weakfish, porgy, sea bass, small sharks, sea robins, bergalls, and of course, blackfish. To a couple eager boys and girls this type of angling can offer action, safety in quiet waters, excitement, and great variety.

FLUKE! Fluke are "IN" in June. There are generally two very good flurries of superior fluke fishing with substantial but more quiet periods of fishing sandwiched between them. The first period usually occurs sometime in late May or early June. If fluke are your game watch the fishing reports very carefully. Fluke will be best in June in the south shore inlets. There will be some action in the New York Bight, but the best of that will likely occur in a few weeks. Long Island Sound fluke are best in a few weeks, too, but there may be some good innings at known early producing spots such as Matinecock Point and Eatons Neck. Montauk fluking gets going early too but the bigger fluke start jumping on the baits in late August and September. Last year the early fluking didn't really get a good start because so many fluke were intercepted by several large draggers from New Jersey who fished just south of Montauk. Maybe this year some of those fish will get through. Fluking is a very enjoyable early summer sport. The weather is comfortable, the fishing is easy, and the days are long. Surely in that combination you can find a tide that suits your work and family schedule. The fish you catch are great eating too. So come on out and do some fishing.

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BLUEFISH! Bluefish will please from late May to late November some place or the other in Long Island waters. The early blues though are generally on the small side (1-3 lbs., we call them tailor or harbor blues), but you can always be surprised. Big blues will be in at Block Island to add spice to the cod action and the faltering pollack. Big blues will surely be on the wrecks, too, and some middle-sized fish will probably be trolled around Montauk Point and the sub buoy. Again, like with blackfish, I prefer to save my bluefishing for the fall. The action is more consistent, the fish come in closer to shore, the bigger blues are found in more diverse locations, and right now there are too many other good things to catch.

STRIPED BASS! Everyone's love, the king of the coastal ocean, the striped bass has an affinity for June too. By early June you have an interesting combination of a continued migration that brings new and hungry fish into different waterways, you have some numbers of fish that have settled in for the summer from the early migration, and you have baitfish that are large enough now to interest bass of substantial size. The water isn't too warm yet and the bass just get all kinds of energetic when the water is still cool. Live bunker, live mackerel, and live eels will probably take most of the action in June. the boats have proven that if you drift live bait in known bass spots such as in Long Island Sound (rock piles and bars) and in south shore areas (near the inlets and where rivers or creeks empty out into larger and deeper channels). If you can't get live baitfish, then fresh cut bunker or mackerel will often do the job. Down to the west, the boys like to throw live and dead bunker up against the jetties where the big bass wait. There is usually a good flurry of bass at Montauk. This action takes place near the lighthouse some place in spots like Great Eastern, the Pollack Rip, etc. It is believed that these are migrating fish that encounter the spring bait fish glut at Montauk and go on a feed after the long migration from Chesapeake. This is speculation. Plum Gut gets a slug of big fish after the fishing fades at Montauk and if there are enough migratory bass the action may be simultaneous.

THERE IS IT! There are other species too, but these are the ones that immediately come to my mind. The fish are there. This has been a winter and spring of crime and unrest. The attempt on the life of the President is an example of a national sickness. It becomes increasingly imperative that we do everything we can to help develop in our children a sense of freedom and love of the world. With all those fish out there, take a child fishing tomorrow and help build a better citizen.

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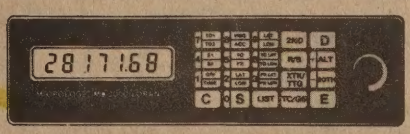

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MORICHES

by Gerald Hahn

Moriches Bay offers at least three different kinds of surf fishing: bridge fishing, inlet fishing, and back water fishing. Nestled between Great South Bay and Shinnecock Bay, Moriches extends for almost fourteen miles, from the Smith Point Bridge in the west to the third Westhampton Bridge in the east. The bay resembles a monofilament line with an egg sinker in the middle, narrow at the east and west ends, wide in the center. On the south side of the egg sinker an inlet separates Fire Island from Westhampton Beach. At least half of the beach and tidal marsh on this side is State Park. By contrast, the heavily populated mainland side meanders along coves and points, interrupted by countless back waters, in addition to two canals at Quogue and Quantuck.

Moriches is one of the shallowest bays on the south shore, its channels averaging a mere six feet. So shallow is Moriches that newcomers to boat fishing do double takes at low tide, as they drift by people clamming in the middle of the bay in water up to their ankles. Although there are some deeper areas near the inlet and farther east, for the most part Moriches' waters flow gently over sand flats and around bars, over mud and seaweed beds—an ideal terrain for blue claw and calico crabs and a variety of shellfish. Commercial clamming is an important industry here. So is sport fishing in private and rental skiffs for flounders and fluke, earning Moriches Bay's reputation as "flatfish alley."

Though known primarily for its flatfish, Moriches harbors other species as well: small blackfish, porgies, and sea bass in the fall, school blues and weaks and an occasional striper in the spring and summer, and their larger relatives at the inlet in the fall. Most of these species are caught by shore-bound fishermen, as well.

Bridge fishing at Moriches is actually a misnomer. The Westhampton bridges have been off-limits for years, and since the last five years or so, "no fishing" signs have been posted on the Smith Point Bridge. Before then, anglers would line the rails of this bridge, their rods swinging at rakish angles like the spines of an immense sea urchin probing for fish. For me the bridge was best in June. School blues and weaks could be seen hiding in its shadow and then suddenly darting into the low sunlight at dusk for an offering of squid, worm, or baitfish, a tin squid or a soft plastic leadhead. With its large overhead lights, the Smith Point Bridge was frequently livelier at night, not only for blues, weaks, and an occasional bass, but oddly, for fluke, a species known to feed in the day.

"No fishing" signs notwithstanding, surfcasters still ply the waters around the Smith Point Bridge; but not from above. Instead, they park their cars on side roads off the William Floyd Parkway, just before the toll booth, and head down to the north side banks. From here they fish as close as possible to the bridge supports, gauging casting angles against current direction, for the same species they once took from the top of the bridge. An eight foot rod and matching spinning reel filled with ten pound test is adequate for casting lures up to an ounce: small swimming and floating plugs, metal, and leadheads with bucktail or soft plastic tails. This kind of fishing, of course, is best at night or in low light at the turn of either tide. In the day, flatfishing on the bottom may be performed with the same gear since sinkers rarely exceed an ounce. Still, most bottom fishermen here prefer a nine foot rod and 15 lb. test because of the seaweed nearby. Although the bay is shallower

Last year the east jetty at Moriches Inlet became an island, and engineers were busy retrieving it.

on the south side of the bridge, some anglers prefer it to the north side. A short walk over the two block long bridge saves a toll and parking fee at the nearby State Park lot.

Inlet fishing at Moriches is sometimes better than bridge fishing, although last year's patterns were unusual, to say the least. In fact, you need a boat to fish the east jetty. A boat for surfcasting? Yes, if you wanted to try the original jetty which had been transformed by the winter hurricane of 1980. During that raging storm, the Atlantic broke through the Westhampton side of the inlet, stranding the east jetty like a skiff fisherman with a konked out motor. The last time I fished here (in October), engineers were busy closing the new inlet and hoping to finish the job by the end of the year. Some people objected, arguing that if Nature wanted a double inlet, let them be. On the other hand, as one engineer pointed out to me, the increasing salinity would eventually ruin the shellfish beds in the bay. Moreoever, an ominous sandbar was forming on the north side of a nameless island, sandwiched between the original jetties on the bay end of the inlet—pointing to the mainland, threatening to close off the bay.

Although boat fishermen noticed an increase in striped bass wandering around the newly formed east jetty island, for me surf fishing was poor. Perhaps other people fared better. At any rate, the new cut certainly looked good for fishing. At first I was pleased that my usual thirty minute trek on ocean-side sand, from the parking field at Cupsogue Beach in Westhampton, had been reduced to a mere ten minute jaunt over a hard-packed, dirt road the construction workers had built for transporting their heavy gear. Cranes, pile drivers, mountains of sand stacked like the pyramids at Gaza, and steel plates, thirty feet long, folded like accordian screens, slowly advanced toward the original jetty, about a quarter-of-a-mile away. The operation involved pounding the steel plates into the sea floor to form a breakwall, and then pushing sand almost to the top. Little by little, the cut was becoming shorter. Meanwhile, fishing potential looked great; white water sprayed over the metal stanchions, which projected about three feet above sea level at the high water line; at low tide shifting sand exposed several bars within casting range. But I found the water generally too shallow, the dropoffs not deep enough. And with the configuration changing every day, last week's hotspot would become this weeks vacuum. A most difficult place for a surf man to get a handle on.

Before the breakthrough, however, Moriches' east jetty offered exciting fishing at various times. A treacherous sandbar off the ocean entrance played havoc with fishing boats while spraying glorious white foam for surfcasters during the outgoing tide. Large plugs, metal jigs, or leadheads tipped with pork rind, at the end of a long rod were essential for casting beyond the bar against prevailing southwesterly winds. Some days a nine foot rod was too small, and twenty pound test nothing to be ashamed of. On the bay side of this jetty, a shoal area sent outgoing water racing over a dropoff to the left, where other surfcasters live-lined eels or fish fry for stripers on the blackest nights. In the day, bottom fishermen drifted squid in the same spot for summer fluke.

Undoubtedly, the breakthrough has changed these configurations. For, in addition to closing the new inlet, the old one will have been dredged by the time anglers are ready to wet their 1981 lines. It will be interesting to see what develops here. But what about the west jetty? Frankly, I do not know how it was affected by the hurricane, since I do not own a beach vehicle and do not relish a seven mile hike. Traditionally, this jetty certainly had potential, perhaps even more than the east jetty. For one, it provided a closer, deeper dropoff to the main channel in the inlet. Moreover, like Shinnecock Inlet's west jetty, Moriches' seemed to harbor more king sized blackfish than the east jetty. Finally, not to be abandoned are the ocean beaches near both sides of this inlet. Once again, it remains to be seen how patterns will develop.

Back water fishing at Moriches is mostly for school sized predators. Working near the canals in the east end or farther back along Quantuck Bay, off Route 27A in Quogue, shore-bound anglers sometimes fill their buckets with larger spring flounder than at the more popular Shinnecock Canal. It stands to reason, since this area of shallow mud flats and slow currents warms up quicker than other parts of the bay. In fact, boat fishermen at Moriches begin and end the season in this vicinity. (For greater detail about this area, see my article, "Roadside Flounders," Issue #13, March 27, 1980.) Also worth exploring is night fishing for small predators near the river and creek entrances on the mainland side, such as at Pattersquash Creek in Mastic Beach, the Forge River in Moriches, and Seatuck Cove in Eastport, all of which also harbor flatfish in the day. The same gear that is used near the bridge may be employed along these back waters. An hour or two before low slack, it is advisable to fish the back sectors first, and then gradually work your way to the mouth. This way, you stay ahead of the draining water and within reach of struggling baitfish and lurking predators. On incoming tide, reverse this procedure.

A complete analysis of Moriches would require a book. To be sure, the town docks on the mainland side, Great Gunn Beach on the Fire Island side, offer other fishing possibilities. But for an introduction to this fascinating south shore bay, try the bridge, the inlet, and the back water sections mentioned.

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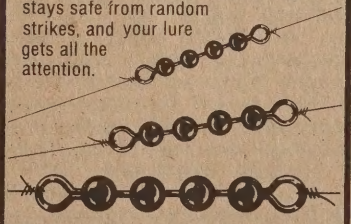

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SINKER BOUNCING

SEA BASS — THE MAINSTAY

by Matt Ahern

We know honesty is the best policy; therefore, I'll be honest and tell you I threw in that subtitle to get your attention. No longer are sea bass the summertime mainstay of the New York Bight fishing fleet—but they used to be. So much so that at one time it was impossible not to catch them.

Before we go into the whys and wherefores of sea bass fishing, perhaps I'd best go through my record books. By so doing, I can tell you with full confidence just how great that fishing was. And also, because memory is a notorious traitor, I don't wish to run the risk of being challenged as an unmitigated bearer of falsehood. It won't be necessary to check back to the early Thirties for this needed information, for until 15-20 years ago, sea bass fishing was quite good. So hold on a minute and I'll be right back.

Okay. I've got all we need.

During the summer of 1963, sea bass fishing in the New York Bight showed no evidence of the drastic change that was to come. On good days during that year 50 to 90 sea bass for each fisherman was about average—my largest single catch that summer was 83. There were no humpbacks in that particular catch; just the general run of fish from 3/4 to one pound.

The fact that we caught few humpbacks during that entire summer should have been the tip-off that something was wrong, but I must have been hiding behind a rock or something, for the thought never occurred to me. As always, the best fishing was on the local wrecks: wrecks such as the Stone Barge, the Coal Wreck, the Steel Wreck, and the old Iberia off Long Beach.

The summer of 1964 foretold the beginning of the end. The records for that year show a sobering catch-reduction for each fisherman. I averaged 15-20 sea bass per trip that summer; which you will admit in the light of past performance was quite some letdown. No longer could we stay anchored over one wreck and lift bait-hungry sea bass until we became arm-weary.

Instead we were forced to fish all local sea bass areas in order to come up with a decent catch. This meant much running around and of course, less fishing time. My records indicate that often as many as four—sometimes five—drops over various spots were necessary for each fisherman on board to bucket just a few fish.

Matt with a husky sea bass taken aboard the "Capt. Clark."

Many times we would run from the "close inshore" Stone Barge to the Coal Wreck, and then to the Steel Wreck (with maybe a drop on the nearby Cholera Bank, just in case), thence to the Angler Bank. And all this coupled with hopeful drops over any areas in-between where the skipper thought fish might be. It was a sad time for the sea bass fisherman, but not as sad as it was to become.

For me, and as it was for most of us, the summer of 1965 proved to be the backbreaker. It was, let us say, the summer of our discontent. Three and four sea bass per trip was now the norm for each fisherman. I recall one trip on which I caught only one—and that was the only bit of action I had that day!

But sea bass weren't the only fish that sent us into the doldrums of despair. My records show that even our multitudes of never-failing sea porgies deserted the New York Bight. However, as bad as this fishing was to eventually become, porgies continued to be caught in substantial numbers up to and including the fall of 1965. From then on, our porgy fishing went rapidly downhill. By 1967 to catch even one sea porgy was an accomplishment to write home about. Forget the Tin Can Grounds, Scallop Ridge, and the various mussel beds which had always provided stupendous porgy fishing. One could dangle a slice of choice skimmer in these areas for days on end and never find one bit of porgy action.

What happened? No one knew then—and no one knows now. Blame for the calamity was put upon the foreign fishing fleet which plagued us

no end at the time, our own commercial fisheries came in for severe tongue lashings, changes in water temperature and prevailing currents were cited, even we poor sinker bouncers did not escape with whole skins. Overfishing by all concerned was claimed the culprit. Even the movement of offshore sludge into inshore waters received some of the brunt of accusation. But no one knew for certain.

Perhaps each of these, except the sinker bouncer, was to blame. I say this not because we are sport fishermen and this is a sport fishing magazine. I say it because no one can make me believe that we fellows with our hooks and lines can outfish the many commercial fisheries with their nets, traps, and whatever.

What has this moralizing to do with today's sea bass fishing? I'm afraid not too much because after several years of poor fishing, sea bass began to re-appear on the scene—and the porgies with them. So much for those of us who overlook the fact that Nature is still boss.

I first noticed this totally unexpected return of our sea bass in 1972. My buddy Artie Leidecker and I had a fair pick on the Cholera Bank while ling fishing one early July morning. And then the following year I began to hear rumors of extra-good sea bass catches. It still didn't dawn on me that sea bass had really returned.

Not, that is, until one warm March morning in 1974 when I visited my good friend Captain Clark Bellows of the Capt. Clark II. There, in the midst of wielding a paint brush over his trim craft, he took time out to tell me of the great sea bass fishing his passengers had enjoyed during late summer and early fall of the previous year. "There were days, Matt, when we had better than a thousand bass between three and four pounds—and we had a lot close to six on every trip. Matt, you better come with us and try it this season."

Now, ordinarily when I hear such glowing reports I feel it prudent to check for further verification before spreading the word. But not if I get that word from Captain Clark. I know this excellent skipper far too long to ever consider doubting his word. As he told me one day: "We go back a long way, Matt. We've shared the good days and the poor days." That statement is as right as rain. As with all good and responsible party boat skippers, Captain Clark does not gild the lily.

Well, anyway, I didn't try Captain Clark's sea bass fishing that season. Why—I don't know. Nor did I try it the following year when this fishing was really heating up. But finally when I did get out there, I caught sea bass until I became arm-weary. Now, when fishing is good, I make it a point to call a halt an hour or so before leaving time (what are you going to do with all those fish?), but on this particular day, I quit before Noon. As my long-time buddy Artie Leidecker says: enough is enough.

With but few exceptions, Captain Clark's sea bass fishing was the kind I enjoyed in the long ago, the kind we had when I was a starry-eyed kid making those long overnight jaunts to Atlantic City aboard various Sheepshead Bay party boats. And here I thought I'd never see such fishing again.

Now, has all this interested you in sea bass? I hope so. Those of you who know all about sea bass fishing need no instruction in the basics. But for those who have never caught sea bass before, here's how to go about it.

Sea bass tackle need not be elaborate, though it should be sturdy enough to use in fairly deep water where currents are likely to be strong. The sea bass is one fish that requires a generous amount of water overhead for consistent fishing; seldom are they caught in substantial numbers when fishing shallow inshore waters. Therefore, spinning tackle does not offer the heft necessary to set the hook. A medium-weight conventional boat rod and matching reel filled with at least 150 yards of good quality 20 lb. test monofilament is ideal.

Sinker weight varies from five ounces in those areas having minimal currents, to eight and over in normally faster water. The bank style is best. These often slide past obstructions (wrecks, rocks, and so forth) that would snag an ordinary flat-sided sinker.

As for hooks, there is no problem. Use a hi-lo rig consisting of two 4/0 regular shanked Sproat hooks: one tied in a snell's length above the sinker, and the other high enough above it to avoid entangling. (Be sure to carry extra hooks and sinkers for the mortality rate on terminal tackle is high in those areas where sea bass fishing is best.)

Skimmer clam makes the best bait. Squid is never refused, nor are strips of bergall, etc. Weave the hook through the bait two or three times and allow a bit to hang from the end.

Sea bass dote on a moving tide and will often refuse to bite on slack water. You can get them to bite again by lowering a small diamond jig tipped with squid. Flash it off bottom with short, snappy flips of the rod tip. Those reluctant bass can't resist. Incidentally, if you are using squid strips, tap each piece gently with the handle of a bait knife. This brings the natural oils to the surface, and by do doing leaches into the water and attracts the bass.

Some days you will find sea bass hitting only a moving bait and it is therefore good practice to jig the line a bit. You will notice bass striking solidly when this is done. They aren't one bit shy.

So, fellow sinker bouncers, when you hear sea bass mentioned, make plans to get in on some of the action. You won't be sorry. Especially if it's anywhere near the way sea bass fishing used to be.

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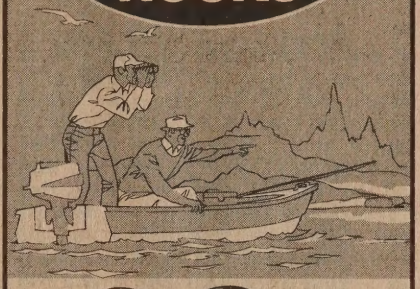

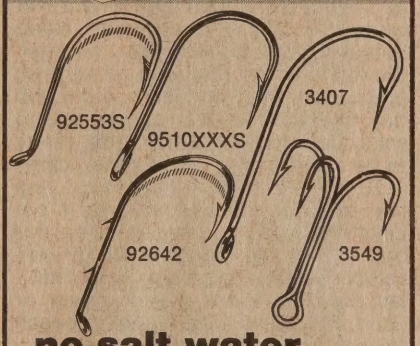

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OF BASS AND WOOD

by Ron Onorato

It is only just a hazy memory now as the years have tarnished that once sharp picture. The fish wasn't large as striped bass go, in fact it was really quite small, but when that fish rocketed out from behind a big rock off Matinecock Point to inhale that little blue popping plug, that was the end. Like a few men before me, my life style would change dramatically as a result of that fish, and others that came after that. Western Long Island Sound became my home as I haunted the rock studded reefs and points with plugs, both small and large, night and day, with the zeal of an apostle saving souls. And the fish were there, ready to be taken on the wood. Then came 1970 and the bunker fishermen, and like many of my counterparts, I put down the wood and began using live bait to tong the pigs that would very seldom go for a big plug. That didn't last long as every man, woman or child, that could snag a bunker began taking fish until there were very few left. By the mid-70s bass of any size became so scarce that it no longer was enjoyable fishing for them. Stories of huge fish and wild water prompted my move to Montauk Point at the end of 1975. And sure enough, the fish were big and mean and most beautiful of all, the fish would once again fall to the wood. Even though the abundance of sand eels made for difficult plug casting or trolling, the big fish still went for the wood. The climax of all this madness came on a hot June afternoon in 1977 when 61½ lbs. of striped bass ate a cast surface plug in 6 ft. of crystal clear water near Turtle Cove. After that fish, fewer and fewer bass would respond to cast plugs, although some great fish would still fall to the trolled plug on the offshore reefs and rips.

Two things have really hurt the use of plugs for striper fishing. The first was the over-use of live bunkers at virtually every stop of the striper's migration and summering grounds. Why use a phony, when you have the real thing? And more recently, the abundance of sand eels has altered the feeding patterns of the bass. While the Chesapeake stock of bass is at an all time low, the Hudson River stock is really quite viable with 3 successive excellent year classes. Perhaps with these new recruits to the fishery, the once fertile feeding grounds of Western Long Island Sound will once again host schools of striped bass, and give a new generation of bass fishermen the opportunity to enjoy some of the thrills we've experienced. And

Author with a pair of 45 lb. stripers that fell to the "wood."

The Reverse Atom, Atom 40s, and Danny plugs are among the most popular of the big surface lures.

perhaps once again the fish will eagerly take plugs. In what follows, we will take a look at some of the different kinds of plugs, the techniques for their successful employment, the tackle to use them with, and some of the areas around the island where there might be some good plug fishing for bass. In addition to factual information, some thoughts and theories associated with plug fishing will also be discussed.

While it may not be the most effective way of putting fish in the box the use of surface swimming and popping plugs is surely one of the most exciting ways. In this crazy world of bass fishing, one of the truly remarkable sights is that of a great fish coming to take a surface swimming plug. At first there may be just a casual swirl behind the plug, while on the next cast the fish will take a swipe at the lure with its tail or head, and then finally, the fish will come up and wholeheartedly eat the lure.

There has been much discussion among bass fishermen as to why a bass will really take a plug. Some maintain that the lure being used resembles some sort of baitfish that the bass is feeding on, and that it simply mistakes the lure for one of these baitfish. This argument is true under certain conditions. During the start of the fall fishing, sometime around the middle to the end of September, there are huge schools of baitfish such as mullet, juvenile bunkers, snappers, weakfish, etc., that come pouring out of the inlets, bays, and sounds en masse. At certain designated locations along the way, schools or pods of bass will ambush these critters and feast on them. If you happen to be at the right spot at the right time, you will with big surface swimming plugs, inflict heavy damage to the bass. In this situation, you are imitating a baitfish that the bass is feeding on, and in the course of the bass' excitement during this feeding frenzy, it might become very careless and mistake the wood for the real thing. This does not happen that often and if you are fortunate to get in on something like this it is quite unforgettable. Of course if you had live bait during such a situation, you would do even better.

Under most other conditions, however, many bass fishermen feel that a plug does not really resemble a baitfish to the bass, but rather respresents some sort of intrusion upon the territorial grounds of the bass. A bass or several bass, after their arrival in the spring, will take some sort of structure as residence. This may be a small jetty, an old pier, an underwater wreck, etc. The bass then claim this as their residence, much like many of the big cats take out certain land areas as their territory. Nothing else is permitted in this residence territory other than other bass. When a plug is presented over an area that has bass, the striper looks at it as an intrusion on his home ground, and will try to force this intruder away. This is why so many times a bass will come up behind a plug and hit it yet not get hooked. The bass is merely trying to get rid of this pest. If after numerous tries at knocking the plug and it does not go away, the bass will do the only thing left that he can do, and that is to eat the plug, not out of hunger or that it was mistaken for a baitfish, but just to get rid of the pest that is disturbing his home.

The two different theories just mentioned apply basically to surface swimming plugs but may not apply to the deep swimming plugs that are presented to the fish on wire line. What goes on down in the striper's domain is something the plug troller will never know. We don't know how long a striper will eye a trolled plug before he decides to eat it. It would appear that a striper eats a trolled plug primarily because it looks like something to eat, mainly some sort of small fish. I honestly believe that a striper, in the course of his summer residency, frequents two different grounds: the place where he feeds, and the place where he hangs out when he isn't feeding. The place where most big stripers feed is usually in a tide rip, a shoal or reef of some sort, or some other sort of underwater obstruction. A prerequisite for these areas to be considered a prime feeding ground is the presence of a usually fast current. Based on this fact, we can see that when we present a trolled plug to a striper under any one of these conditions he is feeding, and will take the plug because it looks like something to eat. Bass, especially the big ones will only fight the fierce tides to feed, and will not as a rule stay in a heavy tide rip when they are not feeding. After the bass have concluded their feeding period they will move off to wherever they go and hang out there, until it is time to move back to the rips or reefs to beginning feeding again.

Since we've gotten on the subject of trolling plugs, we might as well stay with them for awhile. The best time to use sub-surface swimming plugs is when there is a lot of fish bait in the water. If there is one thing that can be said about the over-abundance of the sand eels, it is that this has really knocked the bass off fish bait much of the time. When the fish are feeding heavily on sand eels, it is very difficult to take them on plugs. About the best time to use the plugs is towards the beginning of the fall fishing when all sorts of small fish such as snappers, small weaks, etc., are coming out to make their own migration. At these times, you can't help but connect with a plug. A good case in point is demonstrated every fall at Montauk. At the start of the run, clouds and clouds of baitfish come pouring by the beach and the area inside the #3 can and up to the North Bar becomes a very productive area to troll plugs. When the fish are there, you can't

(Continued on next page.)

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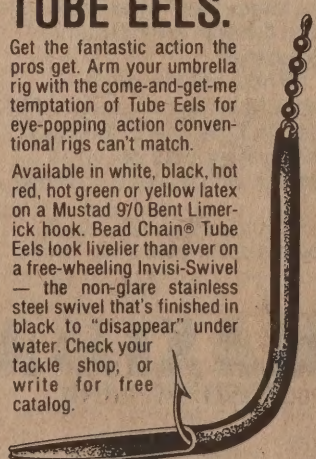

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buy a fish on anything but a plug. Occasionally a fish will fall to a bucktail or a feather jig, but it is the plug that will do the damage. Another interesting thing is that the plug will constantly produce bigger fish than any other lure.

The only way to fish a sub-surface plug is on wire line. By far and away the best plug to use is the Danny swimming plugs. Some plugs will be better than others, so you may have to go through a dozen plugs to get two or three catchers. When you get a couple of catching plugs, you guard them with your life, and pray every time you hang the bottom.

Since many articles dealing with the use of wire line have appeared in this magazine already, it would not pay to discuss this issue any further at this point. It takes a long time to really get the hang of plug trolling and there is no substitute for experience. Unfortunately, we are at a period of time when the stocks of large, migrating Chesapeake stripers are at an all time low, and what few big fish are left are becoming very difficult to catch. For someone to start off entirely new at this time, will be very difficult indeed.

The key to successful plug trolling for stripers is the exact presentation of the lure at a precise location. Big bass will be structure feeding at a position during the course of a tide on a certain structure. They will not leave that position to feed. Therefore the plug must be presented right in front of their faces in order for them to take it. It is an exacting science that entails thorough knowledge of the boat, the plug, the wire line, and the structure of which you are fishing.

The use of surface swimming plugs and popping plugs, is also an exacting art that requires more than anything else, patience; patience to be able to cast time and time again in the hope of stirring up a big fish so that he will eat that piece of wood, patience to be able to watch a fish hit a surface swimmer several times and not take it, patience to be at a certain spot at a certain time with the promise of nothing more than several hours of casting to show for it. Plug casting is one of the most difficult ways to take a bass, but it also is the most rewarding. You may go a whole lifetime of casting with just marginal results, but there comes a time in every caster's career when bass forget they are supposed to be hard to catch and eat everything in sight.

Wood plugs, while they have their drawbacks, are far superior to the plastic specimens. The main drawback of the wood plugs is that they tend to become waterlogged after extended periods of use, and when this happens they will become heavier than normal and start to swim deeper than they are intended to. When this condition occurs, the only thing to do is hang the plugs out on a line and let them dry in the sun. Popping plugs, more so than the top water swimmers should be constructed of wood primarily because you want that plug on the surface at all times. The plastic models will sink on a retrieve, therefore, in order to keep them on the surface, the plug has got to be in constant motion. Wood plugs on the other hand will float when not being retrieved. Many times a hit will come after the plug has been popped and gurgled for a length of time and then the retrieve is halted for a moment or two. The wood plug will just sort of float there for a few seconds rather than sink, and many times this is when the bass will make a grab for the lure.

The same holds true for the surface swimmers. There are times when the small plastic plugs such as the Rebels will be far superior to any other sort of plug, wood, or otherwise, but this is primarily when the fish are feeding heavily on sand eels. However, when the sand eels are not swarming, and there is some sort of fish bait, such as the snapper or mullet, the wooden surface swimmer is the ticket. The old theory of "big fish-big bait" doesn't necessarily apply when choosing the size of the plug to use. At one point, the big Atom 40 was the plug to use. Gradually this plug fell from common usage, despite the fact that it will still produce fish under certain conditions. Eventually, the smaller Atom Jr. became the workhorse of the casters. The Danny line of both surface and sub-surface swimmers are about the best wooden lures on the market today. The surface swimmer by the very nature of its design will stay right on top during the course of the retrieve, while the deep diver, as the name implies, will work below the surface on the retrieve. As a general rule, the surface swimmers can be worked with a very slow retrieve, just so that it gently wobbles from side to side. In order to get the proper action on the deep swimmers, the retrieve should be a little on the quick side.

One of the biggest drawbacks associated with plug casting or trolling is that a good portion of the fish hooked will end up throwing the plug. Somehow, the fish gets leverage and manages to rip those big trebles from his jaw. The really big fish are especially adept at this. Despite the three big treble hooks on the plugs, most of the larger fish will take the plug head first, and it is the head treble that ends up hooking the fish. Fish less than 10 lbs. will generally take the plug tail first, as will most of the blues or weaks that might intrude upon you.

While spinning tackle is far easier to use, conventional tackle is the way to go when throwing the wood. If you are using the tiniest of plugs, then spinning tackle is the only thing to use, but aside from this, a whippy 9' stick with a Penn squidder and 30 lb. Micron line is the tool of the trade.

You're not going to fill the box every time when you put the wood to the fish, but every time a good fish leaps on, it gives you a thrill that you will find hard to beat anywhere.

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Anyone is eligible to enter *The Fisherman Skillful Angling Award Program.* Anglers meeting the required minimum weight for the species listed below will receive a certificate and patch. *ONLY SUBSCRIBERS* are eligible for *The Sport Fishing Award Competition.* Winners will be divided into three categories: Overall, Junior Division (youngsters 16 and under), and a Surf Fishing Division in which only bass, weaks and blues are eligible. The angler landing the largest of a species in each category will receive a handsome plaque along with a matching rod and reel combo. *Outstanding Angler Awards* in the form of a plaque will be presented to any subscriber who establishes a new I.G.F.A. World Record.

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INSHORE BOTTOM FISH		INSHORE GAME FISH		OFFSHORE BIG GAME		FRESHWATER GAME FISH	
SPECIES	MIN. WT.	SPECIES	MIN. WT.	SPECIES	MIN. WT.	SPECIES	MIN. WT.
FLOUNDER	2	STRIPED BASS	30	BLUEFIN TUNA	200	BROWN TROUT	3
BLACKFISH	5	BLUEFISH	15	MAKO SHARK	200	BROOK TROUT	2
CODFISH	30	WEAKFISH	10	WHITE MARLIN	65	RAINBOW TROUT	2
FLUKE	5	POLLACK	20	SWORDFISH	100	LGMOUTH BASS	4

You must be a paid subscriber to *The Long Island Fisherman, The Fisherman or the New England Fisherman* at the time fish is caught to be eligible for *The Sport Fishing Award Competition.* Contest will run from April 1 through November 30. Entries received after December 15th will be disqualified. An incomplete entry blank may result in disqualification of your catch. The Editorial staff of *The Fisherman* reserves the right to award prizes as they see fit. For more info call (516) 725-4200 or write:

THE FISHERMAN • P.O. BOX 1994 • SAG HARBOR, NEW YORK 11963

AREA PROFILE:

REYNOLDS CHANNEL

Part Two — by David Curti

Now, Reynolds Channel is not known for great weakfish action; but the regulars fish the deep holes and channels and do rather nicely. As a young boy, I remember sitting around the table listening to my uncle and his old partner Gus talk about weakfish.

Back before the days of Bay Park in East Rockaway, there was an area that they called Swift Creek (not to be confused with the present one). It seems that they would go there at night and fish a deep hole. Their technique was simple: they used sand worms as bait. As soon as the sinker hit bottom, they made three turns of the reel handle and waited. From the stories they told, catches of thirty fish or more were not uncommon. As the song says: "Those were the days my friend..."

Today you can still take weakfish in the channel: you just have to look a little harder.

One spot that can be hot, especially during the fall, is just between the Atlantic Beach Bridge and the Coast Guard Station. Live snappers fished at night have produced a number of large tiderunners.

One of my favorite spots is the deep hole between buoys 3 and 5. The water is very fast and can reach a depth of seventy feet or more. Deep jigging takes on another dimension on the quiet waters of the Channel.

Another good spot is the area which stretches from the Long Beach High School to Duck Point. The deeper water of the rip has produced some fine fishing; especially at night, with grass shrimp for chum.

There are basically two types of rigs that Tony used to favor. The three by three was his first choice. It consisted of a three foot leadered 1/0 hook attached three feet above the sinker. On occasion he would add some bucktail to the hook.

We would either let the sinker bounce along the bottom or just use the bounce and crank three times method that Tony and Gus had used with success for so many years. The best baits for this type of fishing is either sand worms or shrimp.

The other rig that works well is the live bait rig. I use a 4/0 to 6/0 O'Shaughnessy or Siwash hook on a two to three foot leader attached to a small barrel swivel. A sliding one to three ounce egg sinker helps take the bait down. This rig works well with live snappers, bunker or eels.

There are numerous baits that can be used for weakfish. Worms and squid (fresh Long Island) are the easiest to obtain. The worms can be purchased from a local bait shop, and the squid from a fish store or supermarket. The squid works better when fished on a jig or plastic bait.

The grass shrimp is the time honored bait; but unfortunately they have to be gathered with a net and cannot be purchased. It is generally a two-man operation and best performed at low tide. Stretch a four to six foot bait net between the two of you and work the marshy shore line. Within a few hours you can have yourself three or four quarts of shrimp.

In recent years, snappers have really proved their worth as a bait for big tiderunners. If you have a family, you can enjoy a day of snapper fishing with them and, just before dusk, sneak away with a load of live snappers. Of course, a live bait tank is also needed. When the snappers are in, almost any bulkhead will produce a few.

Mossbunkers will also produce their share of weaks, but over the years, I have found that bass or blues will beat the weaks to the bunker bait. The channel has one of the largest concentrations of bunker I have ever seen, and they are generally located in one of three places. These are: the marsh banks by buoy one; the area around the pink house near the Cedarhurst Yacht Club; and beside the marshes across from the Long Beach High School.

Another good bait are eels. The smaller shoestring variety work best. Save those fat eels for the bass and blues along the beach.

Tony's favorite method of taking weakfish was chumming. Long before I ever pinched the head of a grass shrimp, I had the procedures down pat. As a boy, I would listen to my uncle and his friend Gus, who was the real expert, explain the gentle pinch that would not kill the shrimp—just stun them. Three or four shrimp at a time would be pinched and tossed behind the boat, where they would swim in circles. As soon as they disappeared in the current, three or four more would be tossed in. The hooks were baited with either whole sand worms or two or three shrimp, and the lines were free spooled in back of the boat.

There are four locations in the channel that produce weakfish with regularity. Of the four only one produces consistently on an incoming tide, and that is Duck Point. Line yourself up between buoy 7 and the Point, making sure you are closer to the marshes. Be careful here: there is shallow water with a sand bar that stretches out about seventy-five yards from shore.

The area beside the marsh banks on the border of the deep hole between buoys 3 and 5 is another spot as are the marshes around the Cedarhurst Yacht Club. My favorite spot for chumming in the Channel is the pilings across from the Yacht Club. Many more stripers seem to prowl the pilings, and they often oblige when the weaks do not. One last thing about chumming: it is strictly a nighttime proposition.

Tony owned one of the best seafood restaurants on Long Island, so much of the chum we used contained many tantalizing tidbits such as lobster, soft shell crab, shrimp, squid, and lots of clam juice. We always had a couple of gallons of it along, especially if our supply of grass shrimp was limited.

Being an old boat fisherman, Tony had long ago mastered the bucktail and the diamond jig. I introduced him to Salty Dogs, Mister Twisters and Whiptails, but he always outfished me with one of his ancient bucktails.

Before I go into details on artificials, I think it is important to mention something about times and tides. I have found that the best time for casting artificials to weakfish or bass, for that matter, is when dawn or dusk correspond with the last two hours of incoming tide.

There were many mornings, after a night of chumming, when we would add a few more fish by either diamond jigging or bouncing bucktails and Salty Dogs tipped with squid in the hole. If there was no action, after a drift or two, we would break out the spinning rods and cast along the marsh banks from the bridge to Duck Point.

A word to the wise: when casting, make sure that your jig lands as close to the bank as possible. Work your jig slowly, making it hop along the bottom in short jerks. You should be able to tell when the jig hits the dropoff. Let it settle down, holding the rod tip low to the water, and then work the jig back to the boat. Oftentimes, the fish will follow the jig right to the boat and hit it just before it leaves the water.

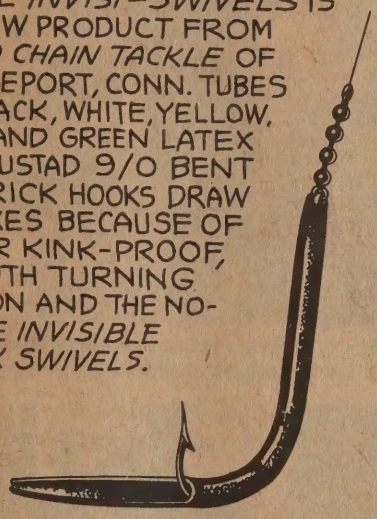
Color is of some importance in this type of fishing: so is weight. Keep

(Continued on page 46.)

FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

FREE WHEELING TUBE LURES FOR UMBRELLA RIGS ATTACHED TO BLACK 75 LB. TEST STAINLESS STEEL *INVISI-SWIVELS* IS A NEW PRODUCT FROM *BEAD CHAIN TACKLE* OF BRIDGEPORT, CONN. TUBES IN BLACK, WHITE, YELLOW, RED AND GREEN LATEX ON MUSTAD 9/0 BENT LIMERICK HOOKS DRAW STRIKES BECAUSE OF THEIR KINK-PROOF, SMOOTH TURNING ACTION AND THE NO-SHINE *INVISIBLE BLACK SWIVELS.*



Tube Eel
BEAD CHAIN TACKLE CO.

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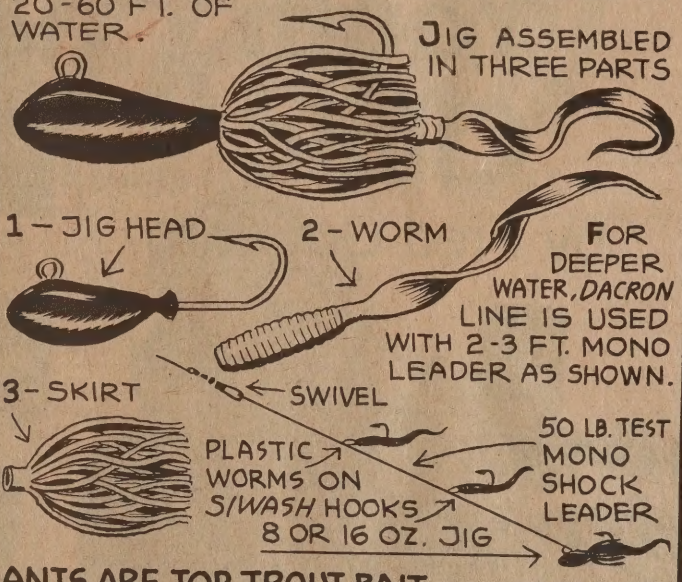
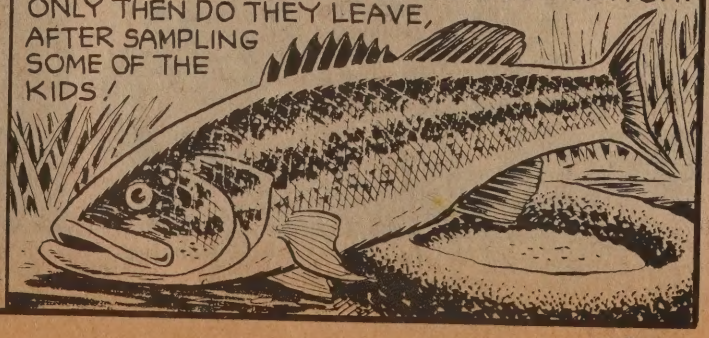

JIG ASSEMBLED IN THREE PARTS
1 - JIG HEAD
2 - WORM
FOR DEEPER WATER, *DACRON* LINE IS USED WITH 2-3 FT. MONO LEADER AS SHOWN.
3 - SKIRT
SWIVEL
50 LB. TEST MONO SHOCK LEADER
PLASTIC WORMS ON *SIWASH* HOOKS
8 OR 16 OZ. JIG

SPINNING REEL DRAGS SHOULD BE SET JUST UNDER THE BREAKING TEST OF THE LINE AND *LEFT ALONE.* WHEN PLAYING A HEAVY FISH, CONTROL THE RUNS BY PRESSING AGAINST THE LIPS OF THE SPOOL. FIDDLING WITH THE DRAG WHILE FIGHTING A FISH OFTEN RESULTS IN BREAK OFFS.

ANTS ARE TOP TROUT BAIT. MOUNDS OF EARTH IN FIELDS BESIDE TROUT STREAMS ARE ANTHILL HOMES FOR BIG RED OR BLACK ANTS... SO TIE ON ANT FLIES - IF YOU GET NO RESPONSE, TRY CHUMMING. SNAP HALF A DOZEN LIVE ANTS IN THE WATER. THIS USUALLY STIRS TROUT INTO ACTION - THEN SUBSTITUTE THE IMITATION. NOT ONLY *SMALL TROUT,* BUT THE *BIG DADDIES* INHALE THEM ALSO.

BEET BAIT PRESERVER. NEXT TIME YOU FINISH A CAN OF PICKLED *RED BEETS* SAVE THE LIQUID... IT MAKES AN EXCELLENT PRESERVER FOR PORK RIND, CLAMS ETC. IT ALSO DYES THE BAITS A DEEP RED.

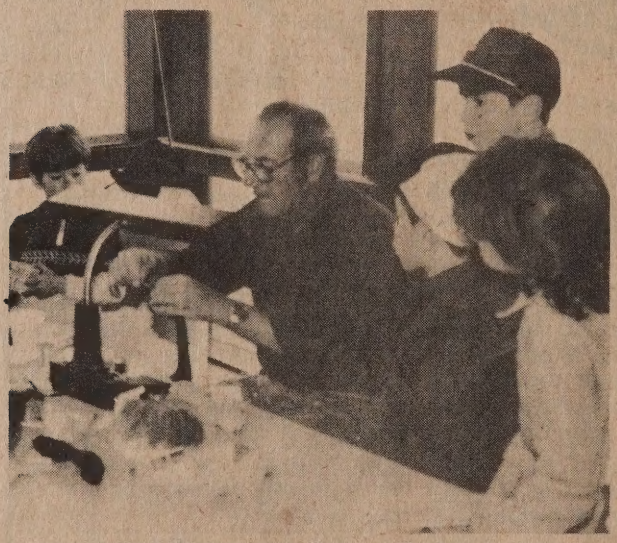
MALE BASS WORK HARD AT SPAWNING TIME. THEY BUILD THE SPAWNING BEDS, FIND THE FEMALES, FERTILIZE THE EGGS, THEN GUARD THE NESTS UNTIL THE EGGS HATCH. ONLY THEN DO THEY LEAVE, AFTER SAMPLING SOME OF THE KIDS!



Long Island Fisherman Youth Clinic

by Fred Golofaro

Lou Rosado, of Daiwa, explains tackle selection to an interested teen while Mom listens in.



Long Island Bassmasters Prexy, "Rocky" Lagonegro, captivated youngsters with his fly-tying skills.

"Rod" DiGiacomo, of J&R Sport Center, shares his rod building prowess with a father and son team.

Tri-Fin lure designer, Mickey Chiarenza, lecturing to an "oldster" on the use of artificials.

The Striper Surf Club's "fishing machine" was a big hit with youngsters attending the May 2nd affair at Heckscher State Park.

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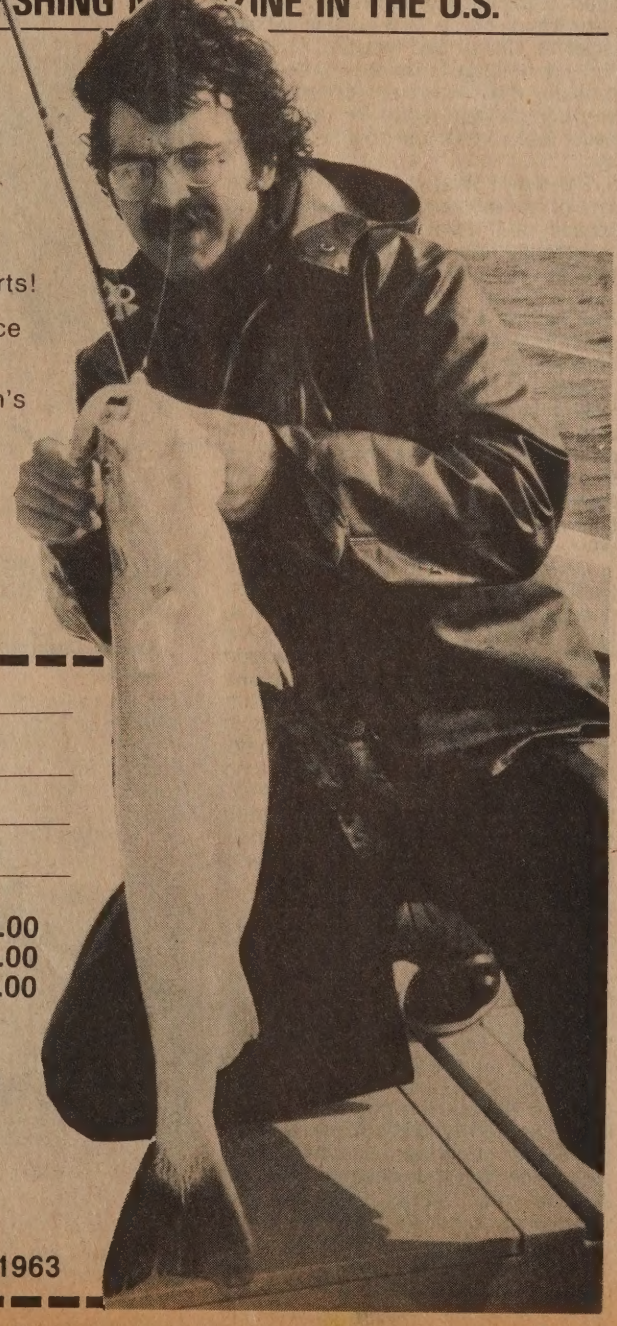

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TRIAL AT NISSEQUOGUE

by Andy Regina

It was a long time coming, this joint meeting and fishing trip between lure manufacturer and field tester. Two years to be exact, from the time I started testing Tri-Fin lures till our open dates finally coincided, finally permitting us a few hours afloat together. On second thought, it was a helluva lot longer than that, when you consider that I had been dreaming of becoming a field tester for years, but never really knew just how to go about it.

The way I finally got involved was sort of anti-climactic; it happened so casually that it was really easy. Using homemade flounder hooks tied with a tuft of red bucktail, my catches far outnumbered those of my fishing cronies, no mean slouches when it came to bottom fishing. A visit to a tackle shop revealed similar hooks on display. I wrote the manufacturer, telling him of my successes with my own models and complimenting him on his professional product. His friendly reply, accompanied by several complementary packages of hooks, started me on the field testing path.

Using his products necessitated frequent correspondence with him and before you know it, there I was, field testing his lures on a regular basis. After about a year I realized that what I was doing was not actually field testing; anyone with a half-brain would have seen it sooner than Yours Truly. Reputable manufacturers have their products extensively tested long before they appear on the market, thus assuring consumers reliable products, thereby maintaining their public image. This is known as closed field testing, and is done by employees of the manufacturer. What we call field testing is actually more in the line of promotional work, and the sole reward is any product that the manufacturer may allow you to keep—unless you figure like I do, that the joys of catching fish on lures is additional payment.

It's not all fun and games though, because if you're sincere you must keep detailed records. It can also be quite frustrating too, because you not only must determine which style, or size, or color, works best, but also which ones do not work as well, and if not, why not. The toughest part comes when you're catching fish like crazy, 'cause you gotta switch lures right then to see if anything else will

Jimmy Chiarenza with some big "Bostons" taken on ultra-light spinning tackle.

The town launching ramp at Kings Park, where the "trial" originated.

do the same. If you think it's tough to come up with a "hot" lure once in awhile, try switching to a different one sometime, right in the middle of the action.

Anyhow, what I wanted was the challenge of the unknown, testing unproven lures. My friend understood my feelings; the same need to constantly experiment drove him incessantly also. I was invited to his home in the off-season, to discuss new lure prototypes. I was amazed to find him as mortal as I was; husband, father, son; likes, dislikes, loves and fears; and dreams, too. The hours spent at his kitchen table flew by as we talked and swapped ideas, communicating as only two rabid fishing nuts can, but it grew late and we had to call it quits.

As I left, we set a target date for our get-together, but inclement weather forced a postponement of another week. The days dragged slowly by till finally, after what seemed like a month, the week passed and it was time to do our thing.

I met Mickey Chiarenza in front of his house at five o'clock. Stowing our gear and his young son in the back of his wagon, we trailered his boat to King's Park and launched from the town ramp at the mouth of the Nissequogue River. The tide was boiling out, and it was breaking faint pink streaks of dawn out east, as we ran slowly out onto the silent Sound.

Anchoring off the mouth of the Nissequogue, where it actually emptied into the Sound, we started fishing, using only new, untried lures. The grassy marsh banks spelled fish to me with a capital "F," and I swear that I smelled that faint cucumber or watermelon aroma that is associated with blues and stripers. Anchored off a channel, we were also in prime weakfish territory, and our hopes ran high even though late reports were disillusioning. No game fish had been reported caught during the week, probably due to the unseasonable spell of cold weather we had experienced.

Sure enough, we caught no fish! Now, was it the cold water, or was it the wrong tide? (It was now fairly low.) Could it be our new lures? We spotted no baitfish although the water back at my end of the Sound, near the Bronx, was teeming with sand eels. Why no baitfish here, two weeks later, in water a darned sight cleaner? We had no answers.

Deciding to try deeper water in mid-Sound, we highballed out of there, determined to make up for that wasted first hour. It was now broad daylight. Fiddling with my camera, I was making adjustments for anticipated action so that all I had to do when the time came was focus and shoot, when I was almost knocked off my feet when Mickey slammed on the brakes. Millions of sand eels swarmed below the surface in a wiggling, wriggling cloud. Boy, how that bait moves! No small wonder they attract predators! We didn't see feeding fish, but something was causing the bait to scatter, breaking water every so often.

Suspecting deep feeding bass or weakfish, we cast our lures through the bait and swam them back up erratically. We immediately started catching one fish after another, as fast as we could unhook one and get back into the water again, but there was one thing wrong. The predators were sundials, feeding on the sand eels and our lures, which resembled that bait. We got out of there fast. Who wanted a lure that caught sundials anyway?

Once more we headed towards mid-Sound, and once more I was caught unawares as we skidded to another abrupt stop. This time we saw fish; Mickey picked them up on the graph recorder and I spotted them splashing on the surface. Small fish—a lot of fish. Could they be bunkers? If so, what was making them break water? The fish weren't bunkers, they were mackerel, chasing sand eels a couple of weeks after we thought the last of them had been long gone. Hungry to prove our lures on game fish, we gave the macs a shot. The Atlantic mackerel is a game fish after all, although not exactly what we had in mind in the first place, and we welcomed them as targets of opportunity that day.

Using light and ultra-light spinning tackle, we used lures ranging from a quarter ounce to a full ounce, and we had a ball with those sleek two pound

(Continued on next page.)

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battlers. There was no great school that day as in previous weeks, just pods of a few fish passing intermittently as we slowly drifted on the Sound, propelled gently by the wind and an incoming tide. I was amazed at the lack of boat traffic, though it was a Sunday morning. Back home it looks like the Long Island Expressway at rush hour, especially on the weekend and especially if someone spots you catching fish!

I was also amazed at the clarity of the water. You could see depths of eight or ten feet clearly, a far cry from the waters around the Bronx. Then I spotted one of the reasons that there may have been such a marked difference. Mickey's young son showed me why when he accepted one of my sandwiches, placing the wrapper in the fish box instead of throwing it in the water, as many people continue to do. He was beautiful, and showed a respect for our environment so often sadly lacking in older, supposedly mature adults, those so-called sportsmen who don't give a damn about the next guy or tomorrow's fishermen!

I stopped fishing for awhile, watching that kid have a ball with my ultra-light spinning outfit. He handled himself like a trooper, and took to my instructions like an established veteran, allowing the macs to burn themselves out against the drag when they ran and pumping and reeling them in when they stopped. Then that kid did something that made me fall in love with him, all four-foot, gap-toothed, freckle-faced, little bit of him. After battling a fish, which must have seemed huge to him, especially on that tackle, he gently unhooked it and slid it back into the water, where it swam away. Catching me watching him, he smiled shyly and turned away, resuming his fishing. That kid is gonna be a hellified fisherman one day, and I hope that more of us follow in his tiny, conservation-minded footsteps, while there is still time to help nature restore the damages caused by us so far.

Snapping from my reverie, I once again got back to the business at hand—testing lures, which is what this trip was supposed to be all about in the first place. We used many different lures; many sizes, many colors, and many styles. Some were effective, others were not. If a fish was caught on one particular size or color, we would switch to a different lure to see if it would produce also. You'd think mackerel were no true criterions for determining effective lure performance, but this is not true. Those fish showed a definite preference for particular styles and colors; silver, which is my favorite mackerel-catching color, was not as productive as pink. Smaller lures outfished larger versions, and a slow, erratic retrieve scored over rapid ones.

Examination of the stomach contents of several fish we kept revealed only partly digested sand eels; we thought that the fish might have been feeding on shrimp, even though they were chasing the schools of sand eels, because of the way they jumped all over pink lures fished with a slow, herky-jerky retrieve, but such was not the case. We could only affirm an age-old fishing axiom: you gotta experiment to catch fish. If one color or one particular retrieving method fails, keep changing till you find out what works best at that particular time.

We ran inshore into the clear shallow depths off Sunken Meadow State Park, to observe a new type of drift sinker Mickey was working on. Once again the clean water here afforded observations not possible in the murky soup of the western Sound, and several drifts proved that the sinker prototypes would enable drift fishermen to drag baits over the bottom with less chances of becoming hung-up. The new sinkers are constructed to actually slide over the bottom, not only minimizing snagging, but affording a greater sensitivity when fish bite.

Time has a nasty habit of flying by when you are enjoying yourself, and that day proved no exception. We were forced to call it a day, and returned to our point of embarkation, where we trailered the boat and drove home, Driving home into a sinking sun, the trip on the Northern State Parkway was much shorter than we were anxiously speeding east, some 12 hours earlier. We barely had time to reflect on the day's events before we were at the toll plaza of the Throgs Neck Bridge, and a few minutes later, back home again.

In retrospect, the trip was a huge success. We had tested our lures and proven them efficient and the new drift sinkers worked properly. True, we had struck out for the glamorous inshore game fish we originally sought, the stripers, bluefish and weakfish, but show me a fisherman who has never been skunked with these fish and I'll tip my cap to him, as Matt Ahern says.

There is always going to be some time, some place, that will humble the proudest fisherman amongst us, and you can take that to the bank! That day proved to be our turn, but we'll come to bat again soon, and we're not always going to strike out either!

Success is measured in different quantities by different people, sort of like different strokes for different folks. Our day was successful to us because we had actually accomplished the purpose we had set out for, testing our lures. My own personal success was realized by seeing a lifelong dream come true. I had actually tested a new lure and was attendant at its birth.

But was my dream completed, or had it only just begun? All I know is that it had successfully passed its first test, that trial at Nissequogue.

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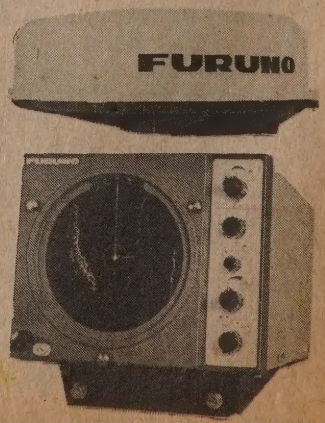


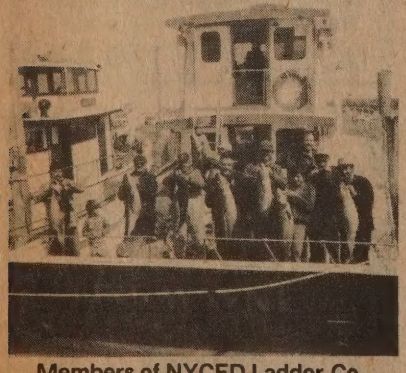
MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
POLLACK

Capt Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** called to say the pollack fishing is now red hot. Friday and Saturdays charters had huge catches. Fiore Fontana of Staten Island had 20 pollack on diamond jigs all south of Block. Four weighed in at 31 lbs. on the nose, each. The water is warming and there are also plenty of blue shark around. Mike says he has several good dates available. See ad for details and phone number.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** reports that Bill Dahl and Dan Morelli Tuesday on an all day trip scored with 25 pollack, 61 bluefish and 1 striper. Wednesday's trip for Nick Karas of Newsday, Ken Moran of the Post, Don Ecker of the Bergen Co. Record totaled 4 bass and several pollack. Thursday was the boat's first offshore shark trip which produced for Ken Philpot 11 blue shark from 40 to 135 lbs. fishing 40 fathoms. Water temp was 59 degrees. The conditions are right, says the capt. and possibly swords will appear soon. Friday's trip for Glen and George Powell totaled 4 striped bass with 1 hitting 36 lbs. Sunday morning at Great Eastern, Don Tenaglia and son Michael, had 5 large bass up to 32 lbs.

Capt Ron of the charter boat **Julie III** fished Fred Johnson and party Saturday, scoring with 59 solid flounders from 1 to 3 lbs. along with 3 blackfish at Colodun Point and Rocky Point. This was on worm and clam.

Capt Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** tells us that the cod and flounder catches at Montauk have been fair this past week with cod taken south of Block Island from 6 to 8 lbs. The **Marlin IV** is now swinging over to porgies, sea bass and flounders. **Marlin V** is now booking trips for day and night bluefishing.



Members of NYCFD Ladder Co. 173 and Engine Co. 331 with pollack up to 32 lbs. taken aboard the "King Wayne" at Block Island.

Dr. Richard Legouri, Joe Smythe and Dr. Lou Pastore with 9 stripers to 39 lbs. along with 24 big flounder. The trio fished with Capt. John DeMaio on the "Vivienne." Ava jigs took the stripers.

Charter boat **Darius II** reports that his charters have been catching cod on the running tide and also they've been trolling up a lot of blues on umbrellas. Best action has been between SW Ledge and Shark's Ledge.

Capt John "Wizard" DeMaio called to say that his parties have been having fair bass fishing. They had 5 Tuesday morning and 6 bass Wednesday morning. Amongst this were two 40 pounders. It's been mostly on diamond jigs, though some have been trolled. Flounders are red hot at inshore Montauk areas with some bluefish mixed in.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

HAMPTON BAYS

John at **Corr's Fishing Station** spoke of excellent flounder fishing on Saturday at Heady Creek and in the Basket area. Catches ran 20-25 fish per person with some of the flatties approaching the 2 lb. mark. Fishing Saturday's early morning tide in Shinnecock Bay, Joe Breznouits and Bob and Joe Calafiore all of Clifton, New Jersey caught 7 bluefish, 12 fluke and 84 flounder. Fishing on Sunday was not up to Saturday's pace due to strong northwesterly winds.

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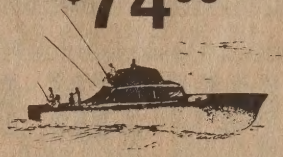

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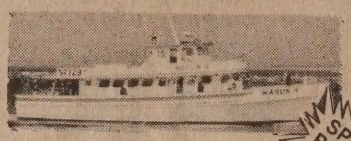

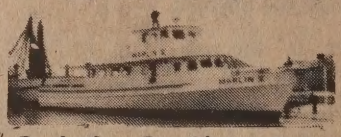

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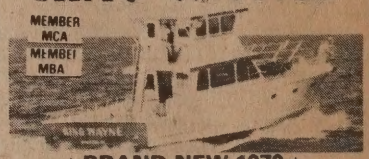

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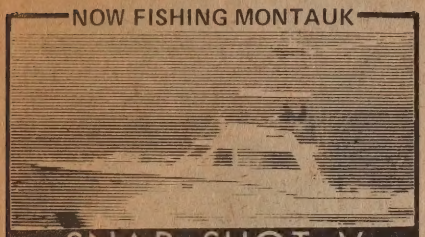

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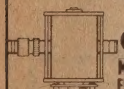

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Sal Santomaso and Joe and Keith Komarek with 56 flounder taken N.E. of buoy 42 on bloodworms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

reported flounder still holding their own south of buoy 39 in 8-10 feet of water. Bloodworms and red-dyed clams working best. Good fishing was the rule on Sunday with boats averaging 40-70 fish apiece. The first good fluke fishing is now a matter of record with the best action at the Elbow or south of the flats between 43 and 44. Sand eel or killie and squid combos are taking most of the fluke. Jim added that there was some very good action with 2-4 lb. blues at the inlet Sunday on umbrella rigs and diamond jigs.

From **Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station** Nick reported that flounder fishing is still good with lots of fish from 1 to 1½ lbs. being taken in the inlet area, buoys 29 and 30. Boats averaged 40 to 60 flatties apiece. Fluke are beginning to take hold with the east and west cuts of the inlet producing best. On Saturday, flatfish sharpy Chris Stuven totalled 60 fluke of which 19 were keepers. Biggest was a 4½ lber.

Gary at **Silly Lily Fishing Station** reported flounder moved into the deeper water near buoys 33 through 39. Bloodworms have been producing catches in the 30 to 50 fish per boat range. Fluke are making a good showing as demonstrated by the 7 taken by Bob Grunseich and a friend near buoy 38 on Saturday. Fish ran from 2-4 lbs. and the pair returned another 5 undersized fish to the water.

Kim at **L&M Marine** spoke of plenty of flounder from buoys 36 to 42. Fluke have moved into the picture with some of the best fluking from buoys 38 to 44. Tom LaCarrubba, Charlie Higginbotham and Bob Marno fished buoy 44 on Sunday and totalled 7 keeper fluke and an 8½ lb. weakfish. They used sand eel and squid combos. Lots of shorts were taken by the trio as well. Also on Sunday, Greg and Rich Bielawski totalled 8 keeper at buoy 38.

Andy at **Seatuck Cove** in Eastport, said flounder still appear to be the best bet as the fluking is just getting started. Despite the wind flounder fishing remained good on Sunday with boats taking 30-60 flatties at buoys 39, 41 and 42. On Sunday, Joe Yager and Tom Andrews, both of Greenlawn took 60 flounder on incoming water at buoy 39. They used mussels.

Joe and Gary Fiammetta, and Ralph Esposito caught these 105 flounder up to 2 lbs. at buoy 39 in Moriches Bay. They fished out of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

Weaks very spotty near the bridge and at buoy 12 while small crabs have begun to show in the area.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz Fishing Station** spoke of solid fluking from buoys 17 to 23 on outgoing water. Killie and squid combos seem to work best on the flatfish and while the throwback ratio is very high, it makes for plenty of action and enough keepers are mixed in to make it worthwhile. Flounder are still good, but smaller in size at buoys 22 and 29. Small blues for pluggers near the old drain behind buoy 17.

WEST SAYVILLE

Bill at **South Bay Fishing Station** reported some good action during the week with most day's producing a mixed bag of weakfish, porgies, fluke and blowfish. Best bets for weaks are Ocean Beach, the Heckscher flats and West Channel. Bill described the weekend as fair with some fluke taken on Saturday and Sunday lost to strong northwest winds.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sports Center** weighed in a weakfish of 11 lbs. 1 oz. for Cam Borruso on Saturday. The fish was taken near East Island. Fluke in the inlet area around the Robert Moses Bridge with only about 30% of the fish being keepers. Dave noted that crabs have begun to make a showing in the lower reaches of the Conetquot River. For freshwater fans, Jerry Konzen of Bohemia checked in a 3 lb.

bass which he took in Blydenburg Park while Larie Romeo stopped with a 4.2 lb. pickerel which came from the Peconic River. Both catches were made on Saturday.

EAST ISLIP

Irene at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** reported that the shop weakfish contest was settled by Anthony Simonetti, who had a tiderunner of 11 lbs. 10 oz. Anthony's catch one him a custom made rod. Boatmen continue to pick away at the weaks in West Channel on sand worms and jelly worms although Sunday's fishing was very slow due to strong winds. A good number of fluke in the bay but most are shorts.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** spoke of improved fluking towards the end of the week. Fish are mixed in size with about one-third of the fish above the 14'' minimum size limit. The skipper has been fishing the Sexton Island area and around the RM bridge. Sunday's fishing slipped due to wind and traffic.

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reported a catch of 11 weaks up to 11 lbs. made on Saturday by Danny Hubbard aboard the Jeri Ann off of Atlantique. He used both sand worms and jelly worms to take the fish. Howie, Stu and crew aboard the An How totalled 14 keeper fluke using sand eels and squid in the State Channel on Saturday. Boatmen have been plugging blues up to 5 lbs. in the early morning and evening hours at Dickerson Channel while blackfish are in fair supply near the Kismet Reef, the wreck buoy, the bridge and buoy 13. A few fluke for pier fishermen at Bay Shore Marina with an occasional weak being taken in the early morning hours.

CAPTREE

Captain Marty of the **Jib Fleet** reported lots of activity with fluke up to 3 lbs. Killies or spearing along with a strip of fluke belly has been the most effective bait. The skipper added that a good percentage of the flatfish are shorts. Some small blues are being taken along with a few weakfish on the PM runs. In the captain's words, weakfishing remains picky. Beginning on Saturday, the **Jib VI** will be running two half-day trips at 10AM and 3PM daily for fluke.

Charter boat **Blue Albatross II** reported very good flounder action during the week and over the weekend at the inlet with catches running from 15 to 25 keepers a man. Bloodworms are taking most of the fish which run anywhere from 1/2 up to 2 lbs.

Fred Stuart and Harold Benson with 129 big flounder taken at buoy 12 on worms and mussels. Photo courtesy of Stiriz' Fishing Station in Mastic Beach.

Captain George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty** reported lots of fluke Saturday in the State Channel from Captree to Gilgo. One out of 5 of the summer flatfish are keepers, but the shorts are providing lots of action. Sand eel and fluke belly combos have been working best and a few small blues are taken each day on the fluke baits. Sunday's fishing was off due to strong northwesterly winds.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** reported fair to good fluking with lots of fish around in the State Channel and Inlet area. Many of the flatfish, however, are shorts. The

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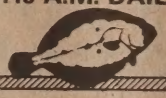
FLUKE
7:45 A.M. DAILY



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skipper described the weakfishing at West Channel and Ocean Beach as fair and said that the spring run appears to be tapering off.

The open boat **Captain Rod**, being handled by Capt. George Bartenback has been taking lots of fluke with about one-third of the fish being keepers. One fare did have a 6½ lber. during the week. The bridge area has produced the best action while sand eels or spearing and squid combos do the most damage.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reported a good day with the fluke on Saturday fishing from the bridge to the inlet. Sunday was off due to strong winds. Best baits have been sand eel or spearing and squid combos.

BABYLON

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported the first shark above the Babylon Tuna Club's 100 lb. minimum weight. Joe Carrione ran 40 miles southeast of the inlet where he took a bunch of small blue sharks in addition to a 130 lber. They also had lots of big blues. Inshore, blues up to 5 lbs. were in good supply in the 50' to 60' range, while 3-5 lb. blues are being trolled on wire and umbrellas inside the bay near the lighthouse. Ralph called the weakfishing slow in the area. However, those that are being taken are all tiderunners. Offshore fans might be interested to know that Ralph had water temperature readings of 62° at the Whistle buoy over the weekend. On the freshwater side, Dennis McCann checked in a 19" pickerel which he took at Southard's Pond on a Hogtail.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLDR./FLUKE

LINDENHURST

Mike reported from **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** that Heinz Wingleb journeyed east to Gardiner's Bay on Saturday and returned with a catch of 68 flounder from 2 to 3½ lbs. Closer to home, Angelo Vacanti, Ralph Russo and George Cappal aboard the C-Angel took 11 keeper fluke at the Babylon Cut on spearing. Fluking improved on both sides of the Robert Moses bridge this week. However, many of the fish are still under the legal 14" minimum. Blues from 2-6 lbs. being trolled on umbrella rigs from the lighthouse to the inlet. A few weakfish also being taken on the trolled tubes, with purple taking the weakfish. Mike reminded that the deadline for registering in the shop fluke contest is June 15. First prize will be a custom made rod.

AMITYVILLE

From **Combs Bait and Tackle** comes word of slow weakfishing this past week. One angler, however, did manage a catch of tiderunners fishing the West Channel area. Pete Gatus stopped by to show a catch of 9 weaks made on sand worms. This was by far the best catch of the week. George, who reported this catch, also spoke of a fair pick of school bass on chum at the bridges and an occasional big fish on live eels. For fluke fans, George named Great Island Channel and West Island as safe bets, but reminded that although the summer flatfish are plentiful, most are shorts and must be returned. Blackfish still at the bridges on fiddler crabs.

SEAFORD

From **Pop's Fishing Station**, John spoke of a bad day on Sunday due to the wind. Fishing was good prior to Sunday, however, with fluke showing a big improvement and flounder still available in decent numbers near the Meadowbrook Bridge and Squaw Island. Of the fluking, Ray Cast fished the buoy 13 area on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and totalled 25 keeper fluke using killie and sand eel combos. On Saturday, Red Granger

fished Squaw Island and took 55 flounder on worms. Also Saturday, Robert Esposito, Rocky Monfito and Keith Fisher returned with a nice mixed catch of flounder, blacks, sea bass and blowfish taken near the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh bridges. John added that the best bets for fluke are the Four Corners area and particularly the east side of Massapequa Cove.

Lon at **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** spoke of continuing flounder action at the 3rd bridge, the Meadowbrook bridge and the Coast Guard Station. Fluke are abundant but the majority of the fish are shorts, with only 2 or 3 out of every 10 making the legal 14" limit. Ray Quinn fished Massapequa Cove on Saturday and wound up with a mess of fluke including a 6½ lber. taken on a killie and squid combo. A few weaks at the Meadowbrook bridge after dark on sand worms and some bass are being taken at the bridges by live liners.

The word from **Captain Eddie's Fishing Station** was that a 7 lb. fluke was taken near the 2nd bridge by Phil Tubiolo on a killie and squid combo. One of the better fluke catches brought into the station was made by Al the Postman who returned with 14 keepers taken on killies and squid between the Wantagh and Meadowbrook Bridges. Flounder are still available as demonstrated by the catch of 60 flatties up to 2½ lbs. made at Squaw Island by Richie Wojcieski and Pete Kryscuk. They used woms worms and mussel chum.

The open boat **Chinco** reported a fair day with the flounders on Saturday with catches varying anywhere from 5 to 15 fish a man. Lots of short fluke were also taken with a few keepers mixed in. Sunday was tough picking due to the wind and boat traffic. The skipper added that he has had his best fluking in Sloop Channel and in the vicinity of the 3rd bridge. Beginning this week, the Chinco will be fishing fluke only.

BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** knew that bunker spoon trollers working off of Lido have been scoring with bass in the 20 to 40 lb. range. Lots of 6-8 lb. blues being taken in the same area. Fluke fishing showed improvement this past week in Reynolds Channel with sand eel and squid combos doing the best job on the flatfish. Scott added that the size of the fish was laso has also improved with the keeper to throwback ratio now approaching 50/50.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reported a catch of 14 school bass clam chummed in the State Channel by Dennis Newman and Buddy Holmes over a two-day period this past week. George Zipper of Bellmore, used a bunker to take a 33 lb. striper on Wednesday. Of the fluke fishing, Jimmy reported plenty of

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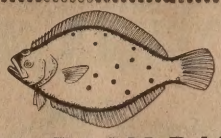
Thomas Andrews, Joe Yager, and John Szokoli took these 79 flounder N/W of buoy 44 on outgoing water. They used mussels and worms. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.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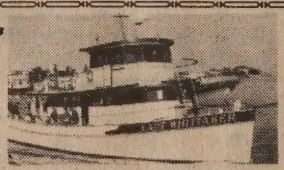

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action, although lots of the fish being taken are shorts. Some boats managed to cull 7 to 10 keepers out of the day's fishing. Best fishing has been in Rowboat Alley and at Merrick Point with the latter spot producing a 6½ lb. doormat for Norm Kalisch. Small blues in the 2 lb. range were taken on jigs all week long at the inlet while bigger fish, in the 4 to 7 lb. range are being trolled west along the beach in 30' of water.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells of bluefish in 60' of water off the Pink Hotel, fish 2 to 3 lbs. in solid quantities on umbrellas. These fish could also be diamond jigged with the right efforts. Fluke at the 50 percent keeper ratio in Reynold's Channel from the Loop Bridge to Long Creek on sand eels, squid and killies. Still some flounders with decent catches brought in from Scow Creek on worms. Some blacks continue to be caught at the local wrecks.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

FREEPORT

The **Capt Bill** has now switched to fluke, 2 trips a day. Saturday saw plenty of fluke action on both trips, with lots of midgets mixed in. Sunday saw poor fishing conditions all day with wind against tide resulting in little or no drift or tide and wind in the same direction resulting in super drifts. Saturday morning's trip 25 percent of the fish were keepers and on the afternoon trip, 50 percent were keepers, fishing Reynold's, Long Creek and other local creeks using sand eels and fish belly. For those who worked at it there were 2 to 6 keepers per man.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports the fluking shows an improvement with some larger fish being caught in the ocean now. Incoming tide remains best using sand eels. Wednesday's trip for Modell's saw Russ Mahusky of East Meadow take the pool with a 4 lb. 8 oz. fluke. Marcus Fish on Manhasset Hills was runner up. They fished Reynold's Channel and the Inlet. Friday's trip for a state agency group saw a good catch at Reynold's Channel and the inlet. Saturday on the **BF III** a lot of short fish were run into. The Hanover Bank party was onboard and Bill Southwick caught the pool fish, a 4½ lb. fluke. Aboard the **BF II**, Ed Williams nabbed the pool. Sunday was a new ballgame.

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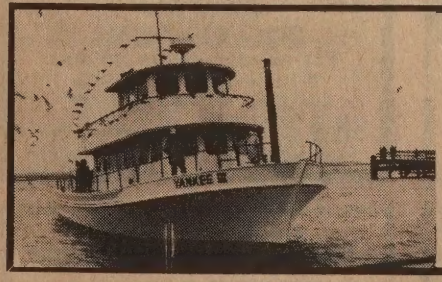

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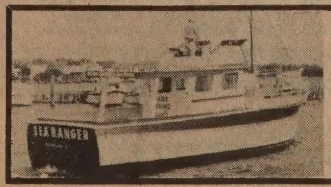

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With strong NW winds **BF II & III** fished offshore along the beach and had excellent fluking off Reis Park, a quarter to 1 mile off the beach. Almost all fares had keepers, 13 to 18 in number. There were very few throwbacks. Aboard the **III** Walt Hernasko took the pool with a 4 lb. fluke. Sand eels and a flooding tide worked best. This was the best fluke day so far this season. The skipper says that he still has a few openings left for the July 4th shark reservation trip.

The **Capt Gary** reports that Saturday's open boat trip for fluke was a goody. Hi hook was Bruce from Queens with 15 keeper fluke. John Loanes of Brooklyn took the pool. Sunday's charter from the Forest Hills PO had a good day despite the winds. Hi hook was Rosemary Jacobs Pool winner was Billy Scholfield. The boat is running this Saturday, June 13th at 8 a.m. for fluke as an open boat.

Freeport Boatmen's Association had an all fluke weekend. Saturday, Norseman II and Tru-Blue fished Cary HS for a good fluke trip. The Corsair enjoyed good fluking around the JI buoy running east and west of the inlet for some nice fish on squid and sand eels. The Northstar had the Wantagh Fire Dept. Engine 1 out and fished Reynold's Channel from the Inlet to the Golf Course for a good days fluking. Sunday Norseman II fished a charter from Bloomingdales and they had fluke in Reynold's Channel. The percentage of keepers is going up everyday. The Atlantic sailed a trip for Gilhouley's Pub and they worked the area from the Golf Course to the west with a good catch by the end of the day. On Saturday, Fishermen trolled some blues about 60' of water off the beach and later on returned for some fluke in Reynold's. The **Super Spray II** has been enjoying excellent fluking on the morning trips, and good fluking on the afternoon trips in Reynold's Channel. The boat is fishing local creeks and channels and the inlet. The **Super Spray's** cod wreck trip scheduled for June 20th is half booked at this point and filling fast. With a 65 man limit lots of room and comfort are assured, but reserve now if you want to get in on some hot wreck fishing.

Starstream II all this past week and weekend has been enjoying decent catches of mixed ling and sea bass along with a few scattered blackfish and blues.

The **Capt Al** has been working various inshore wrecks and getting good blackfish catches along with drops on sea bass. The boat is also getting some porgies each day. Loads of ling are available along with the sea bass, blacks and porgies for a good mixed bag.

Hook Line & Sinker Bait & Tackle tells of bluefish in the Inlet Friday out to the R II buoy on wireline and umbrellas. A few bass underneath the blues being taken on deep running plugs. Ed Slater on his boat Mad

Hatter trolled blues SW of the Pink Hotel Sunday in 40' of water for fish 4 to 6 lbs.

Capt Bill of the charter boat **Ivory Queen** reports that Friday's charter for Sal Farruggia of W Hempstead and party west sharking but got 40 bluefish instead up to 14 lbs. Sal and Jack Kasica scored with 14 fish apiece on butters and mackerel chunks. The other anglers joining in the mayhem were Bob Logon, John Magliano and Frank Sangiorgi. This was in 140' of water SE of Jone's.

Capt Tony Carni of the **Apus II** reports that Friday's charter for Irv Cohen and party fished SW of the Pink Hotel in 50' of water and totaled 70 blues from 5 to 10 lb. on umbrellas and wire. Saturday's trip for Bill Houser and party totaled 60 blues. Sunday's trip for Joann Feil and party fished south of Jone's Tower in 70' of water and racked up 40 good bluefish.

Capt Walt Scott's **Freeport Charter Service**, **Acme II** reports that Eric Olsen's annual fluke trip for members of Perry Ind. got off to a great start fishing Reynold's Channel. They had over 200 fish with enough keepers to make the day for the 45 aboard. Audrey Kriegel had the pool fish at 6 lbs. 8 ozs. Many awards were won, most notable Phil Adamo for most tangles. Sunday's charter for Dave Washington and group started poorly with strong winds, grass and generally poor drifting conditons. A few keeper fluke were nevertheless bagged. The skipper switched to flounders at that point and enjoyed better results with 1 to 1½ lb. fish. Pool fish went 3 lbs. They also ended up with a dozen keeper fluke mixed in.

Anthony's Fishing Station tells us that John and Tony Gulla and friend had over 20 keeper fluke Sunday fishing Reynold's Channel using squid, sand eels and killies. They fished around the area of the Point Lookout Bridge, Fundy and also Merrick Bay. They culled out lots of shorts. Most of the boats had atleast a few keeper fluke and mixed flounder.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that prior to Sunday's wind, fluke fishing was on an increase in both size and quantities of keepers. Reynold's Channel has been producing best around buoys 17 and 18 and in front of the station. Sand eels and squid have been best. A lot of nice flounders are still being caught in Swift Creek on worms. Blackfish still being caught to a limited number at the Twreck, Meadowbrook and Long Creek Bridges on fiddlers and worms. Martin Finger, Joe Deckert and Ed Durand of Ridgewood, had 30 keeper fluke Wednesday fishing sand eels in Reynold's from the station through buoy 17. Bill Büggeln of Douglaston and Louie Starace had 18 keeper fluke fishing Reynold's on sand eels and squid. Best has been 3 hours on both sides of the high.

Charter boat **Marie III** called to tell

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us that Thursday's trip for Andrew Jackson HS teachers group had excellent fluking in Reynold's from the marinas to Cinder Creek and the golf course. They had over 300 fish, 25 percent of which were keepers. The pool went to Ken Bantum with a 4 lb. fluke. A few double headers were taken. Bait was squid and sand eels. Saturday's trip for the Human Resource Center fished the same area plus Garretts Lead. Best was the top of the flood. Eight men had over 200 fluke, with a 25 percent keeper ratio. Hi hook was John Oesterle with 7 keepers out of 36 fluke caught on sand eels and squid. The boat is running an open boat shark trip June 21st with 8 man limit. Call for details if interested.

Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** tells of a good Saturday. A 4 lb. fluke was taken by a rental skiff fishing right off the station, for Tom Nielson of Laurelton. Tom also had 9 other keepers. The keeper ratio on fluke is improving steadily and there is lots of action. Blues on an incoming tide from the inlet to the tip of Pt Lookout on umbrellas, tin, or bait. Flouners very good at the drain in Middle Bay and Swift Creek with 1 regular senior citizen customer really knocking the pants off of them on worm and clam bait.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook reports the fluking is improving as to size with the keeper ratio now around 50 percent. Charlie says that the Coast Guard Station area at Jone's Inlet and Swift Creek Friday and Saturday. Flounder are still here and if you want them Charlie advises that you concentrate on a likely spot, preferably a hole, and sit there and chum. You should be rewarded. Blacks are about all over for the time being. Sunday saw bluefish trolled off Long Beach and the Rockaways on umbrellas, fish 3 to 5 lbs., with a few 10 to 12 pounders. Some bass to 18 lbs. mixed in, prefering spoons. This is all in an average of 30' depths.

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** reports that he's had a very good week all throughout the bay with loads of small fluke with an average of 7 keepers out of 30 fish total per man, or a 25 percent keeper ratio. In Sunday's wind, the boat fished off Reis Park and fares had a minimum of 12 keepers a man with 4 pounder taking pool honors. There were 2 to 4 fish working all the time. Clem will be working off Reis Park whenever conditions permit. Hi hook during the week was 20 keepers in the bay. There are a larger percentage of keepers in the ocean. Some were outside Jone's during the week also. The skipper is also finding fish in Reynold's channel in the back areas incuding Shaffers Creek. Best baits have been spearing, sand eels, squid and stripped baits.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports that Jim Gentilesco of Long Beach for his 41st birthday was rewarded with 24 lb. striped bass taken off a Rockaway jetty Saturday from a boat, on live bunker. The catch was made at approximately 6 a.m. Saturday morning. Pete Hawkinson of Long Beach and Mike Sommers of Port Washington had 12 keeper fluke on killies fishing Duck Point on the first of the ebb, Sunday. Morris and Rhama Abraham and Joey Betesh had 18 keeper fluke fishing Duck Point. They anchored up and chummed with bunker chum and killies as hook bait. Bigger fish seem to prefer the killies. Larger blues off the Pink Hotel and the Rockaways on umbrellas.

EAST ROCKAWAY

Skippy's Bait & Tackle reports fluke fishing is improving size wise in Reynold's Channel and Duck Point on squid and sand eels. Decent catches of mid size bluefish east and west of all the inlets on umbrellas.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** says that fluke are all over the place with lots of keepers mixed in

amongst the midgets. A good area has been from the Silver Point Jetty east to the Long Beach RR Trestle. Sand eels and squid along with spearing and killies are all doing the job. Both tides are working. Blues being trolled from Reis Park to Playland close in on umbrellas. Occaisonal blacks at the jetties and bridges on fiddlers and worm.

Capt Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** reports the blues continue to be excellent. This is local fishing around the area of the Rockaways. Ron's charters are getting over 100 bluefish a day with fish running from 3 to 10 lbs. This is on umbrellas and on spoons.

JAMAICA BAY

J-Bay Fishing Station tells us that on Thursday one rental boat had 2 blues in the 4 lb. range at the Silver Hole Jetty on bunker chunks. Plenty of eels and some small blackfish in the same area.

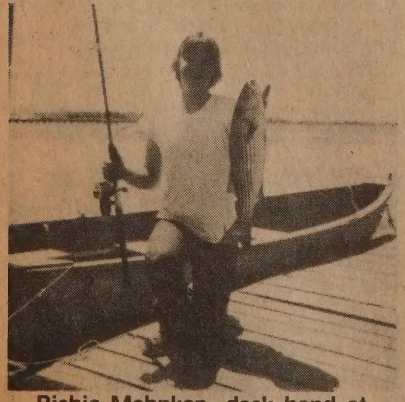
Cross Bay Bait & Tackle tells of a 9 lb. blue taken off the North Channel Bridge by Pat Fasano on a whole live bunker on Monday afternoon. A 12½ lb. striped fell to Joe Roman fishing off the South Channel Bridge with whole bunker on an ebbing tide Saturday night. Some small blues and some keeper fluke off both Bridges on fluke rigs. Still some flounders being caught off both bridges, mixed sizes.

HOWARD BEACH

Capt John of the charter boat **Thermocline** called to say that the bluefishing is still very good on the Tin Can Grounds using umbrellas. Blackfish still hitting on the wrecks on clam, fiddlers and green crabs. John says some blue shark and mako shark have been brought in and that it looks like an early shark year. The boat still has a few good dates available for the season.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Andy at **Stella Maris Tackle** tells of plenty of 6 to 7 lb. bluefish at the Tin



Richie Mahnken, dock hand at "J-Bay Boat Rental" with one of six school bass taken drifting worms in Jamaica Bay.

Kerry and Karen Stuven display their father's pool winning blackfish taken on a recent flounder trip.

Can and at the Jetty on umbrellas and diamond jigs. Fluke starting off the Rockaways and Reis Park and at Sandy Hook. Scattered blackfish at all the wrecks, rocks and jetties on clam worm and crabs. Some whiting and ling at the Mud Hole on squid. Flounders and small porgies off Rockaway on the Breezy Point side.

Capt Butch of the **Zephyr** has been fishing the red and black side of Ambrose, Coney Island flats and Sunshine Beach off Jersey for good catches of fluke. The Coney Island flats are producing more action but smaller fish. The grounds off the Rockaways are coming alive now and getting better everyday. Fish are running from shorts to 3 pounders on sand eels and spearing. Flood tide has been best and they are also picking a few stray bluefish.

The **Flamingo III** started bluefish last Wednesday and reports excellent catches of blues Wednesday through Friday with catches of 10 to 40 blues a man for experienced anglers and 8 to 10 a man for beginners. This is all jigging. The boat is working the area from the Rockaway Point jetty through Sandy Hook, the Jersey Highlands and Norton's Point. These are 2 to 5 lb. fish. Catches were fair on the weekend due to heavy boat traffic and high winds. On Sunday a 10 lb. striped bass was jigged, the first party boat bass of the season. Three 25 lb. stripers were taken by one surffisherman that the skipper knows about, but where the fish were caught and on what, remains unknown. Walt says there is quite a number of schools of bluefish spread out and you can go from one to the other with not too much sweat.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop tells us that the piers 8, 10, 12 and 17 are producing flounders, blacks, tommy cod, eels and a few small bass, mainly on worms. The South Beach storm sewers are producing catches of mixed fluke and 2 to 3 lb. blues and blackfish along the sides. New Dorp is having small blues from 4 to 5 lbs. on bunker chunks. Weakfish still being caught at Great Kills on sand worms

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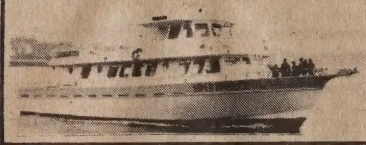

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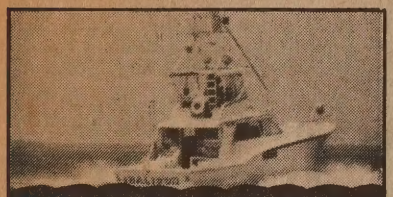

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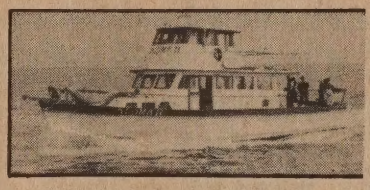

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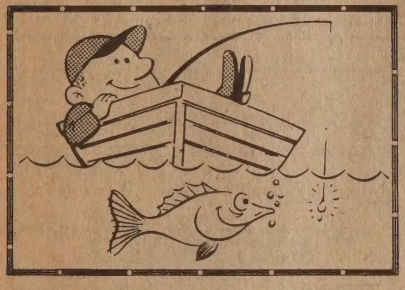

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drifted along the jetty. Keeper fluke at the same spot on worms and on squid strips. Annandale has had small blues on bait and on trolled umbrellas.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
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PORGIES

GREENPORT

Charter boat **Blue Albatross** called and reported that fishing this weekend was picky due to conditions. Saturday's charter for Ed Doyle produced a mixed bag of nice sized blackfish, flounders and porgies. Pool winner was Joe Doris. Sunday's trip for Popsidero Co. had respectable black, flounder and porgy catches. Most of the catch was blackfish taken around Gardiner's. The boat will be sailing open Monday through Friday starting June 17th. See ad and call for details if interested.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** said that most fares on open boats are doing pretty well on porgies with half pails the norm. Bob Tollander weighed a 3 lb. scup, taken on the **Prime Time** with skipper Dave Green. There are a few weaks around Deering Point now, and night fishing on the **Brand X** has dropped off to about a dozen weaks per trip. Flounder still best off Orient, and anglers should look for the biggest fish near the beach. Largest flounder are still to be found off Green Hills down Gardiner's Way.

SOUTHOLD

Jim Dunkirk at the **Port of Egypt** told us of a few weaks Friday off buoy 17 with jelly worms still producing. Most fish are under 6 lbs., but several weighed over 8½. Flounder are smaller off Orient but they still persist while blackfish are making a showing off the Orient lighthouse. Diamond jiggers have a few innings on bluefish off Jessup's and the porgies off buoys 16 and 17 are mixed from mediums on up.

MATTITUCK

Charlie Caraftis at the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** said porgy action still slow, but fluking was getting better off the Bluffs and off the Beachcomber. Top of the outgoing was best on sand eels and squid. Keepers were running one in three and the best fish of the week was 8½ lbs. Blackfishing was "fantastic" off the Firing Range.

BAIT & TACKLE

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal Loria at **Captain Marty's** reported plenty of porgies off buoy 30 and off the red and black ostruction buoy. Clams and worms were producing nice catches including some large fish among mixed sizes. There was also a pick of porgies around buoy 18, between Nassau Point and 18 on the Middle Grounds and around 23. Weaks were anywhere from 3 to 7½ lbs. Newt Robbins at **Captain Jim's** mentioned that weakfishing had slowed down and rough winds made fishing difficult on Saturday. Porgies were okay with average sizes around 1 lb.

AQUEBOGUE

Nick Cyprus at **Warren's** in Aquebogue says that Northville is still very good for blackfishing, and porgies are just starting. Fluke now making a showing on the Roanoke Shoal as well as off Horton's and off Mattituck Inlet. School bass in the area run up to 9 lbs. and Rebels are most productive. Old-timers are still managing weaks in the Bay on hi-lo rigs with whole sand worms.

PECONIC

Speck's Bait & Tackle tells us that in the Shinnecock area, Hetty Creek and the Basket and the west side of Ponquogue Bridge produced good catches of mixed sized flounder on clam, mussel and worm. Fluke there are mostly shorts. Blackfish are being caught at the jetties on the west side being best on worms and fiddlers. The blacks are running 2 to 4 lbs. At Noyac's Long Beach weaks are being caught in early morning hours, best on ebbing tide. Squid, tins and plugs are all working well on schoolie fish. Porgies in the bay at Middle Grounds and buoy 16, Noyac. Fish are running from ¾ to 1½ lbs. Solid flounder catches at Gardiner's Island off Eastern Plains. One veteran flounder pounder had 83 good keepers Saturday and 62 Sunday. A few keeper fluke off Gardiner's Island and very good flounder catches at Colodun and rocky point at Montauk on worms, clam and mussels.

NOYAC

Barbara at **Noyac Marina** tells of lots of 2 to 4 lb. blues being caught in the buoy 17 area and off Short Beach on Hopkins and diamond jigs. Pete Knowles totaled 20 of these blues Thursday and 6 blues and 3 weaks Wedensday at Short Beach. On Sunday one rental skiff had a solid catch of porgies between buoys 17 and 18.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** tells us that he's finished with night weaks for the season. Saturday and

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REYNOLDS CHANNEL

(Continued from page 22.)

your bucktails small (half ounce and smaller). White is the best color for clear days, and yellow when there is heavy cloud cover. Your whiptails should also be under a half ounce. White and red Whiptails seem to work best, with the white having the edge. The Mister Twisters and Salty Dogs should be pink or white, but there are times when the green at dusk and the amber at dawn work well.

Another artificial that works well for me is a streamer fly fished about three feet behind a drail or rubber core sinker. It also often helps to tip whatever jig you use with a piece of squid.

Only God knows why, but weaks are weak (terrible pun!) for jelly worms. The hi-lo rig with a sand worm on the bottom and a white or strawberry worm on top works well during the daylight hours. At night, grape and black have the edge. You can also rig a jelly worm on a jig head and cast them. This is the method that I prefer.

Perhaps my favorite pastime is having weakfish rise for a well cast plug; but the same techniques that take the weakfish also work for stripers, so I will cover that in detail later on.

So long for this week. Next week I will cover fluking in Reynolds Channel.

Sundays trips produced a good showing of porgies and he will be sailing porgies everyday except Tuesday and Wednesday, which are fluking days. Sunday's hi hook was Rich Geliebper of Hampton Bays with 43 porgies to 3 lbs., 2 sea bass and a black. The boat will not sail as an open boat June 14th and 15th as it will be participating in the Sag Harbor Whalers Festival. Art tells us that the charterboat **Sundance** got 4 keeper fluke fishing off the Ruins, the first indication of fluke for this area this year.

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** reports that anglers are getting weakfish at Mashamok and Cedar Points drifting in 30' of water using jelly worms and squid as bait. Porgies are hitting in fine fashion at buoy 11. The same anglers from Paterson NJ that last week caught over 100 porgies, scored with over 200 this week. Bluefish are starting to be picked up at Jessups on diamond jigs, though these fish are only 2 to 3 pounders. Weaks remain pretty steady at Smith Cove on jelly worms and large porgies still being caught at Cedar Point.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES/FLDR.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph at **Ralph's Fishing Station** mentioned plenty of porgies, some to 2 lbs, but mostly mixed sizes, off the rocks and fished on clams and worms. A 9½ lb. weakfish, taken on a Hopkins was the best of the week, with the weaks swinging over to sand eels. Blackfishing is great and the blues are now inside buoy 9. Ralph says, "we can't ask for anything more!"

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station says there are a lot of weaks off White Beach in Miller Place working on sand eels, and jelly worms and sand worms still do a job. Fish run to 6 lbs. Blacks are still strong, and decent sized flounder make up 1/3 of a typical catch which is unusual for this time of year. Mixed sizes of porgies are showing off Mount Misery Shoals.

The **Aqua Gem** is still working off the Shoreham Power plants for blackfish. Green crabs are preferred baits, and it was tough anchoring up off the Pipeline on Sunday. The boat has also been picking at a few porgies, according to Jeannette.

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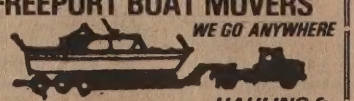

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NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's** weighed a haul of 20 fish taken by Scott Baird of Centerport and found a 12½ lb. blue and a 9½ lb. weak among the catch. Night fishing or dawn fishing is the best, and blues may be found anywhere. Diamonds as well as umbrellas are the ticket off buoy 11B. Ranges may run as far as 2 miles offshore.

HUNTINGTON

George at the **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** says that the blackfish action came back on Friday and Saturday. Crabs were best bait at buoy 13, and the biggest of 36 tautog weighed in by Ray Hoeppner and Jim McKenna went 8 lbs. 1 oz. Schoolie bass and blues to 5 lbs. are making a showing in Smithtown Bay as well as off Lloyds Pt. Biggest bass weighed in so far and first of the biggies was Rick Hawkins' 55 lb. 6 oz. fish, taken from Huntington Inlet on a live bunker. It took Hawkins two hours to find one bunker, but it must have been worth it. **Ronnie's** reported a slowdown on blackfish off buoy 13 and said the weakfishing has dropped dead. Porgies up to a pound were showing in the Eaton's area and worm trollers were taking bass off Marshall Fields as well as Whitewood Point.

Packy Collins said that the **Ever Ready** had a super Friday off Eaton's inside buoy 13 and that Louis Fenza pulled 35 tautog up to 7½ lbs. on fiddlers and green crabs. Saturday was only average, but one fare managed a 3 lb. sea bass and a 4 lb. striper when the boat took a break for some jigging. Winds forced a pick on blacks and sand porgies on Sunday off Crescent Beach Can #4. Collins reminds us that the boat will be out of the water from the 15th thru the 19th in preparation for inspection.

GLEN COVE

John at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** says that the bottom fishing on blackfish and flounder has cooled slightly. It's not the boom of ten days ago. Small porgies are showing on the sand flats off the beaches, and there are a few fluke in the rips. Best bass of the week was a 46½ lb. fish weighed in by John Kahler who was live lining bunker. Sharpies are picking up bass of all sizes. Alec Ramiriez weighed in a 6 lb. blue, taken while fishing for weaks, and the biggest tide runner of the week went 10¾ lbs. Lots of mullet are around now and fly fishermen should note that weaks, and small bass are vulnerable to keel flies with dark tops and silver sides. No fancy patterns necessary.

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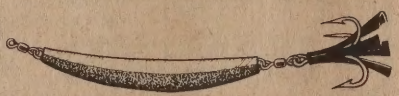

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CITY ISLAND

The scene was fairly quiet last week, but boats were still picking at blackfish off Pea Island as well as off Execution Rock. There are a few bass in Turtle Cove being taken on Rebels as well as worms.

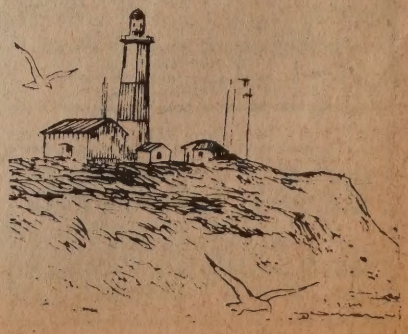
City Island Bait and Tackle says they are waiting for a fresh impulse of fish right now. The **Ebb Tide** has been working up into the Smithtown and Port Jeff areas with best fishing during the week on blackfish with some porgies thrown in.

Capt Dom of the **Apache** called to report fabulous porgy fishing for his customers to the tune of 30 to 50 porgies a man, fish ½ to 1¼ lbs. on sand worms at Oyster Bay. A few dozen blackfish were thrown in amongst this catch, with specimens going up to 11 lbs. on sand worms and green crabs.

Capt Joe of the **Ebb Tide III** also called with the porgy news. Fishing both Oyster Bay and off Smithtown they are getting 20 to 50 porgies a man from ½ to 1 lb. in very good numbers on worms. Also plenty of flounder mixed in up to 1½ lbs. Blackfish are averaging 2 to 8 lbs. also on worms. A few sea bass and blowfish mixed in everyday and small fluke are beginning to show.

NEW ROCHELLE

At **John's Bait and Tackle,** John tells us there seems to be plenty of blues in the Sound from Mamaroneck up to Captain's Island. Fish are deep as well as on top and may be trolled with umbrellas or taken on mackerel strips. Sizes are 6-12 lbs. School bass up to 10 lbs. can be taken on slowly trolled sand worms (no spinners) along the Connecticut shore at night. Blackfish and porgies are up in the Bayville area, and some weaks are scattered among the blues.



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SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Still plenty of life around the Island's beaches this past week with that stretch of the North Shore from Rocky Point to Port Jeff still providing good action with weaks, blues and some bass. On the South Shore, near Fire Island and Jones Inlet a few teen to 20 lb. stripers have made an appearance but details are lacking. The fishing at Montauk can certainly be classified as "worth making the trip" judging by reports emanating out of Mecca.

At the western end of the Island, that bass action in the Rockaways has tapered off although Bernie Haag of the **Long Beach Sports Marina** did see three big fish taken there over the weekend by one caster. Down Atlantic Beach way, a few blues from 4 to 7 lbs. were taken on tin both Saturday and Sunday morning.

Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** in Seaford weighed an 8¼ lb. weak taken on a sand worm near Gilgo by Vinnie Worgul. "Red Beard" who is one of the shop regulars, checked in with a few blues to 5 lbs. and one school striper taken at Democrat on Friday. Lon relayed word of a bluefish blitz at West End Saturday evening. Tin and plugs took lots of choppers in the 4-6 lb. class right up until dark. One caster who was on the scene told Lon that he saw another surfman leaving the beach shortly after dark with a pair of 30 lb. class stripers.

Richie Brennan who frequents Peppy's Bait and Tackle in East Islip put a 22½ lb. striper on the scale. Richie said small swimmers like the Rebel and RedFin have been taking fish in the vicinity of Jones Inlet. He also reported blues up to 5 lbs. at Jones Beach West End over the weekend. At least a few stripers were in evidence at Fire Island on the weekend. Mike Campanelli at West Islip checked in 3 bass at the Captree Bait Station Saturday morning. The 2 largest went 15.12 and 16.3 lbs. He, too, said he took the fish on plugs. Rick Magro stopped by the bait station Monday AM to weigh in a 7½ lb. weak he had just beached under the drawbridge.

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** out in Shinnecock said casters continue to take weakfish at Long Beach but it appears that the action is beginning to fizzle. Best fishing remains during outgoing water in the early morning. Most of the weaks run 4-6 lbs. with an occasional larger one mixed in. Still no word on any activity along the ocean beaches, but then

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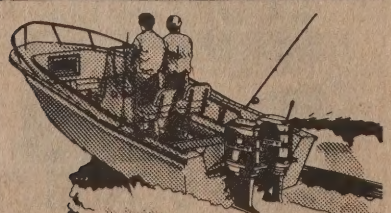

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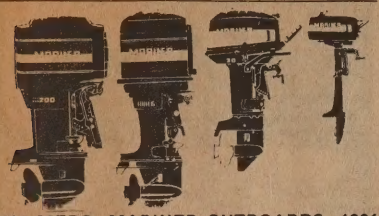

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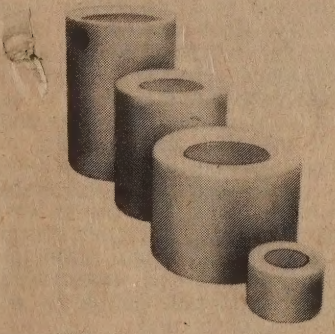

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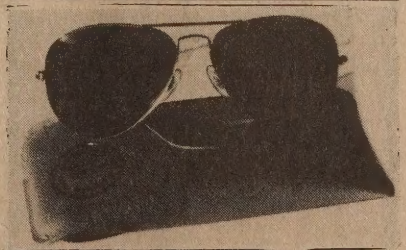

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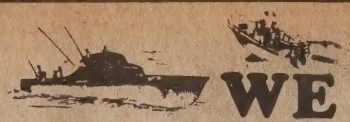

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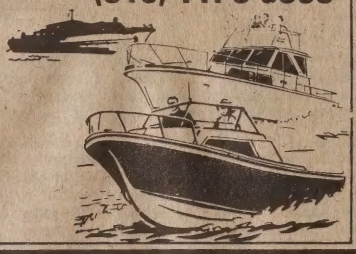

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(# on right indicates # of wrecks on chart)

☐ WC-1007	Gulf of Mexico (Keys to Texas)	57
☐ WC-1112	Cape Canaveral to Key West	22*
☐ WC-1111	Charleston Light to Cape Canaveral	11*
☐ WC-1110	Cape Hatteras to Charleston Light	57
☐ WC-1109	Cape May to Cape Hatteras	87
☐ WC-1108	Approaches to New York. Nantucket Shoals to Five Fathom Bank	109
☐ WC-1207	Massachusetts Bay	47
☐ WC-1107	Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals	33
☐ WC-1106	Bay of Fundy to Cape Cod	12

*WC-1111 and WC-1112 count as one chart.

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Enclosed is my check for $_____ for the charts checked above.

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again, not many guys have been out trying according to Thom.

Montauk remained alive with Jones Reef continuing to produce some decent bass as well as 6 to 7 lb. bluefish. After a few quiet days during the week, Johnny Kronuch said that things started happening again on Thursday evening. Both Thursday and Friday nights saw quite a few bass in the teens along with bluefish taken on RedFin and dropper combos and popping plugs before dark. Fish were showing both Saturday and Sunday, some big bass amongst them but no one was able to do much with them. One of the better fish taken on Thursday was a 32.4 lb. striper taken by local angler Tommy Sepp. Tom whipped the cow bass on 10 lb. test. On Friday, Ted Shane drilled 3 fish out of Jones on the big RedFin. There's action under the Light also with some bass up to 16 lbs. and blues in the 4-6 lb. class taken over the weekend. Saturday AM John weighed stripers of 35.6 lbs. and 49.6 lbs. for two casters who preferred not to say where they took the fish.

Over on the North Shore Ronnie of **Ronnies** Bait and Tackle reported the surf throughout the Huntington area has been quiet with a couple of small bass along the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway providing the only break from boredom for local casters. Boatmen continue to do well with the bass and Ronnie expects that if conditions improve there could be some decent fishing for casters.

To the east, Port Jeff, Miller Place and Rocky Point appear to have cornered the north shore action. Huge concentrations of bait in the form of sand eels and squid appear to be holding large numbers of weaks and blues in the area. Bass are also in evidence here, but sometimes difficult to get through to. Miller Place continues hot with a couple of wild innings experienced by casters during afternoons this past week. Evenings have been productive for some casters working Tri-Fin eel worms or #3

Ron Corso Sr. and Jr. with 4 stripers from 25 to 40 lbs. taken from the Atlantic Beach surf. Fish were weighed at Bowman's Sporting Goods.

Richie Fitzsimmons, Steve, and Peter Jakits took these 76 flounder off of Heckscher Park. Subscriber photo.

Hopkins slow and deep. Except during blitzes, many of the casters do little or nothing. Down in Rocky Point, Stan of the Rocky Point Fishing Stop reported he has never seen such consistent action in the area. Stan is a hard fishing regular himself and has been cutting a good swath in the local bass and weakfish populations along local beaches. Tri-Fin spoon jigs and eel worms along with 5½" floating Rebels and RedFins are doing the most damage. Stan reminded that while the best action has been at night, fish have been taken at mid-afternoon and mid-morning as well.

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	3:45	4:30	4:55	5:35	4:35	5:15	5:55	6:25	8:25	8:50	7:35	8:00	3:55	4:25	6/11
FRI.	4:45	5:20	5:50	6:20	5:30	6:05	6:45	7:10	9:15	9:35	8:30	8:50	4:45	5:15	6/12
SAT.	5:40	6:10	6:40	7:05	6:25	6:50	7:35	7:50	10:05	10:20	9:20	9:35	5:30	5:55	6/13
SUN.	6:25	6:50	7:20	7:45	7:10	7:30	8:10	8:25	10:50	11:00	10:05	10:15	6:15	6:40	6/14
MON.	7:10	7:30	8:05	8:20	7:55	8:10	8:50	9:00	11:30	11:35	10:45	10:55	7:00	7:20	6/15
TUE.	7:50	8:10	8:45	9:00	8:35	8:50	9:30	9:35	—	12:10	11:25	11:35	7:45	8:00	6/16
WED.	8:30	8:45	9:20	9:35	9:15	9:25	10:10	10:10	11:50	12:30	—	12:00	8:25	8:45	6/17
THUR.	9:10	9:25	10:00	10:10	9:55	9:55	10:50	10:50	12:05	12:45	12:10	12:40	9:10	9:25	6/18

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Ponfunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3.42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

6/12	5:24	8:35
6/13	5:24	8:36
6/14	5:24	8:36
6/15	5:24	8:37
6/16	5:24	8:37
6/17	5:24	8:38
6/18	5:24	8:38

Moonrise/Moonset

6/12	3:49PM	2:50AM
6/13	4:46PM	3:17AM
6/14	5:43PM	3:46AM
6/15	6:41PM	4:17AM
6/16	7:37PM	4:52AM
6/17	8:32PM	5:32AM
6/18	9:24PM	6:17AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
6/2	6/9	6/17	6/25

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES***. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	1:20	**7:20**	1:30	**7:40**
Fri.	1:55	**8:00**	2:10	**8:20**
Sat.	2:35	**8:40**	2:50	**9:00**
Sun.	3:15	**9:15**	3:35	**9:40**
Mon.	3:55	**10:00**	4:10	**10:20**
Tues.	4:35	**10:40**	4:50	**11:05**
Wed.	5:20	**11:25**	5:35	**11:50**
Thurs.	6:05	—	6:30	**12:20**

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16,000 pounds of hard fighting ocean fish were caught on a single, light duty Sealine reel. The reel withstood this punishment so well, it wasn't even necessary to change the drag washers. Practically overnight, Sealine became a favorite with serious ocean fishermen.

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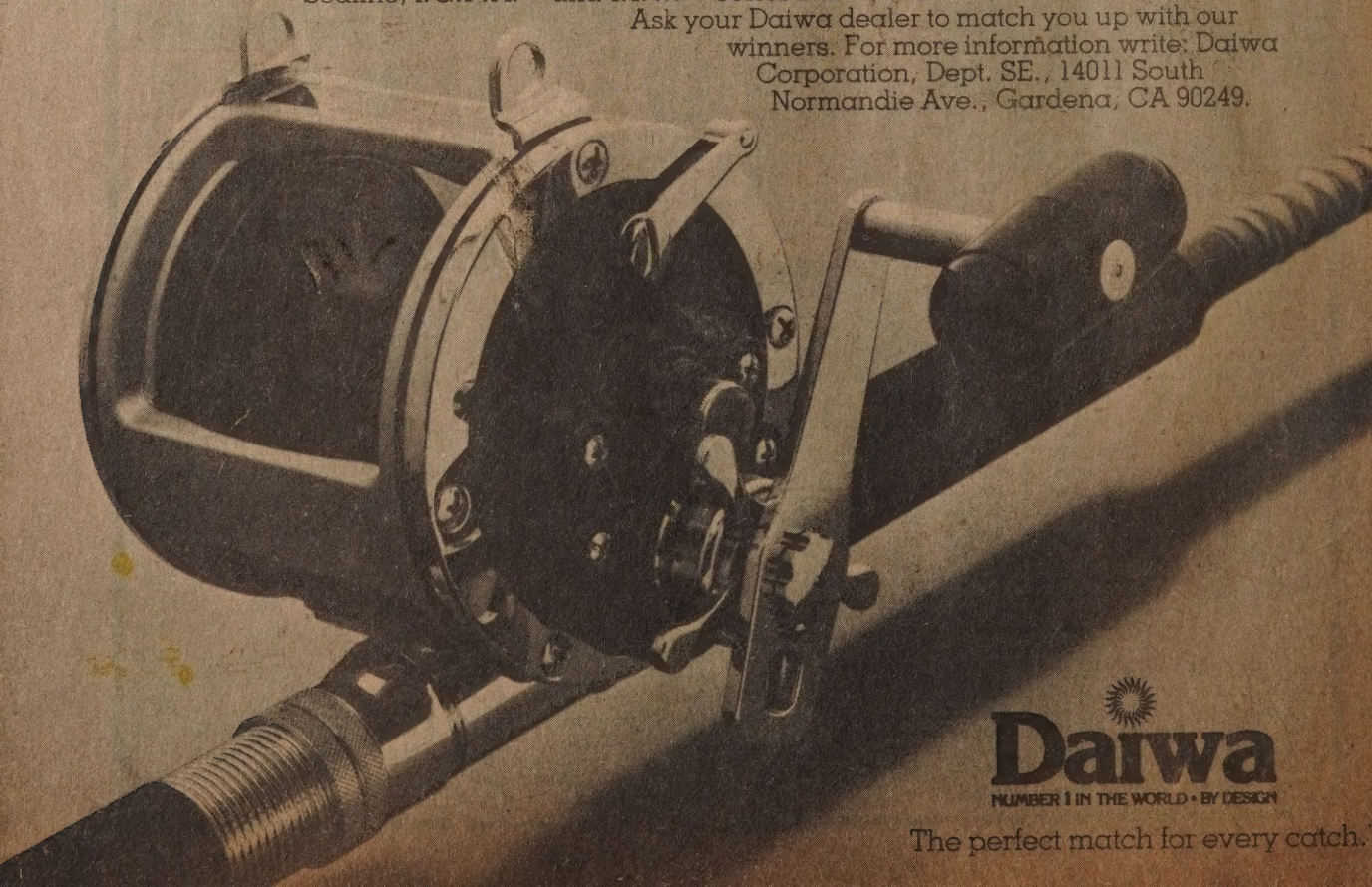
Ask your Daiwa dealer to match you up with our winners. For more information write: Daiwa Corporation, Dept. SE., 14011 South Normandie Ave., Gardena, CA 90249.



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